**EAST BARNET SCHOOL-FACULTY OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS**

**THE ART DEPARTMENT**

The Art Department is part of the Expressive Arts Faculty, together with Music, Drama and Physical Education.

Art is taught by three full time teachers, who are supported by a part-time technician. The accommodation comprises four purpose built rooms and an art gallery, which is used to provide ‘A’ Level students with studio space for independent work, as well as for the exhibition of students’ work.

From Years 7 to 9, all students receive one lesson of Art per week and are taught in mixed ability groups. Year 7 and 8 students also receive additional EEE school lessons once a week in which they are taught through projects to expand on their skills set. At GCSE, students who opt for Art attend two lessons per week. Year 12 and 13 ‘A’ Level students study four / five lessons per week respectively.

The Art Department puts a great deal of emphasis on teamwork and the collaborative planning of an interesting and engaging curriculum. At all key stages, the department works from a common scheme of work, which has been developed and resourced collaboratively. In all year groups, drawing is highly valued and taught as a skill which enables students to investigate and explore forms and ideas. In Years 7, 8 and 9, students undertake observational based studies in the Autumn term involving drawing, painting and mixed media work. As the academic year progresses, they are encouraged to develop more individual based ideas taking starting points from the first term and from their sketchbooks. Homework is set once every other week at Key Stage 3 and students use this opportunity to improve their skills further, and use this work as a resource for ideas being worked on in class.

At Key Stage 4, students follow the Edexcel Fine Art course, which is assessed through controlled assessments and an externally set exam. Again, at this level, drawing skills are used a lot to explore stimuli and ideas. Students begin the course with common starting points, and, as the course progresses, are encouraged to work more individually. Homework is set once a week and the students’ journals are a key element in the development and direction of their work. Students work in a variety of media including drawing, painting, mixed media relief printing and three dimensional work. A lunch time coursework club is held twice a week for all GCSE students and an additional after school weekly session is held for students who need further support. All Art teachers help to run these events.

At Key Stage 5, there is one Year 12 and one Year 13 Art group. At the start of the two-year course, students follow a common approach, developing skills and approaches to work effectively at this level. We follow the Edexcel ‘A’ Level Fine Art course and, as this develops, students are expected to work more individually. Homework is set regularly, including theory based work which focusses on investigation for the personal written study which students submit towards the end of the course. The gallery space is provided for students, alongside a room designated for the Sixth Form. Students have their own space to work in, much like at art college. Our Sixth Form students have been very successful in securing places at prestigious universities to study art foundation and degree level courses in art and design.

2018