# **THE ART DEPARTMENT**

**CURRICULUM**

Students are encouraged to work both collaboratively and individually through a challenging range of two and three-dimensional media and to review and refine work at each stage of the creative process through peer critiques. Students in each year group are taught to record their responses through a range of different processes from photography to drawing. Particular emphasis is put on observational drawing skills, which form an integral part of each project. All students learn to deconstruct and analyse other artists, craftspeople, cultures and historical periods. In turn they learn to apply this knowledge to their own work, making connections between other contexts and their personal responses to become both critics and practitioners.

The last two years has seen a great increase in girls selecting Art at GCSE and A level. The department follows the Edexcel Unendorsed Assessment. Students engage with a wide variety of techniques and approaches, and students need to be open-minded and ready to challenge their existing preconceptions of art, whilst refining their core skills. ICT and new media including photography and film are used extensively. Results at GCSE are outstanding, with 100% A-A\* at GCSE, 87% of which achieved an A\* in 2015.

At A level we continue to follow the Edexcel GCE Specification. Students are encouraged to take risks and develop as artists. They are given the opportunity to specialise in a range of media and processes which are relevant to their interests whether they be Architecture, fashion, sculpture, darkroom photography, installation or film. Their work culminates in an end of year show at A level. We hope that by the end of this course, students will have gained a rich understanding of visual language and a passion for Art that goes beyond their school career. Numbers at KS5 are growing rapidly and results have been excellent: in the last 3 years, 100% of candidates achieved an A-A\* at A level.

The learning which girls undertake in lessons is enriched through a wide range of extra-curricular activities. External speakers from creative industries come in to address KS4 and KS5 students. A full programme of visits to Art Fairs and Galleries both here and abroad also allows pupils to extend their learning beyond the classroom. We are also part of the Royal Academy’s attRAct scheme.

**STAFF**

* Head of department – full time.
* Teacher – part time (0.8).
* Technician – part time.

**ACCOMMODATION**

There are two art studios, each equipped with computers and Internet access, Photoshop and scanners and specialist equipment.

**AS1** – GCSE room and 6th Form studio, storeroom, screen-printing facilities, computers, projectors.

**AS2** - KS3 room, Clay Kiln, Printing press, Heat press, screen-printing facilities, darkroom, photocopier, computers, digital cameras, tripods.