The Art department at the Langley Park School for Boys is creative, innovative and stimulating for students and staff alike. The department develops a broad range of practical and technical skills through all key stages and values critical thinking skills highly, while fostering creativity and a love of learning at every opportunity. We believe strongly in experiencing the world beyond the confines of the school and frequently undertake study visits in order to draw upon these experiences and stimulus. We encourage students to innovate and to respond to both contemporary and more traditional themes. Students at A Level achieved 87% A\*-B last year and at GCSE students achieved 90% grade 9-4. Both GCSE and A level achieved an ALPS score of five. These are statistics that we are proud of but statistics that we constantly aim to improve.

The department has a strong artistic culture at A Level. Last year 60% of the year 13 cohort pursued an Art based degree at Higher Education or are pursuing the subject at Art Foundation Level and each student is supported in progressing to this stage. The department boasts an exclusive sixth form teaching room with a wide range of facilities that facilitate the teaching of ceramics, printmaking, textiles, casting, large scale drawing and painting and installation.

At the department’s heart is our belief in process and materials and the desire to see all students working independently using their own initiative. All students undertake a four-week life drawing class within the school, a skill that we see as beneficial for all students at A Level. This allows students to learn technical drawing skills that informs much of the work created subsequently. The Summer Exhibition is the culmination of all of the work that the students in year 12 and 13 have created throughout the course and is a fantastic celebration of their creativity and endeavour.

The sixth form students are offered the opportunity to take part in the annual Visual Arts residential study visit. This is run with the Graphic Design Department and the Photography Department that we work closely alongside. This study visit alternates between New York and St Ives and offers a fantastic opportunity for students to respond to a new culture and experience a range of environments. We have also run study visits to Rome, Paris and Barcelona. In addition, we undertake one-day excursions to Chatham Dockyards, the Huntarian Museum, Kew Gardens, Hastings, Dungeness and Whitstable.

In 2016, the department saw a 100% increase in the number of students choosing Art at GCSE and has a strong set of candidates studying the subject; consequently this has fed through to A Level. For both A Level and GCSE, AQA is our chosen exam board. The course aims to prepare all students for the rigors of the A Level course and promotes creativity, critical thinking and technical ability.

At KS3 we aim to teach the formal elements of Art and Design while considering a wide spectrum of Artists and designers. These include contemporary artists, modern artists and historical figures. We expose the students to ideas surrounding installation and alternative ways of exhibiting their work. Students investigate Artists, Photographers and Graphic Designers in order to prepare them for any of these three disciplines and that are taught at GCSE. The department is very dynamic in its approach to teaching and learning at KS3, which has encompassed many cross-curricular projects and whole school outcomes.

The department is very active in an extra-curricular capacity. ‘Drawing Club’ runs on a weekly basis and the ‘Visual Industries Lecture Series’, sees creative practitioners from a variety of industries talk about their careers. We also run workshops, out of the normal timetable, for the A\* Academy students in the school and this has a direct impact on our GCSE uptake. At the beginning of the year we host ‘The Big Draw’ community event which sees people of all ages taking part in a drawing event in the school.

The department seeks an enthusiastic, hard-working and committed head of department to continue the departments’ positive trajectory.