

Welcome to the Creative Arts Department

Department Team

Shelley Ashkowski	Head of Creative (Art specialist)
Colette Deevey	Teacher of Art (p/t)
Simon Down	Teacher of Photography, Graphics, Art
Sarah Smith	Teacher of Drama
Zoe Young	Teacher of Music & Drama p/t
Alistair Jennings	Teacher of Music
Atarah Ash	Technician

Peripatetic Team – we also welcome a number of music tutors support our excellent music provision and these personalised lessons are very popular with our students.

Our Ethos

We are a positive team with a strong sense of loyalty and commitment to our students. Although everyone works hard to ensure the Department continues to drive forward; there is always time for a chat and humour is never lost. Department members are very supportive of one another and we regularly get together during lunch times for social opportunities and a chance to celebrate personal events such as birthdays. New members joining the team would find a welcoming and nurturing environment and would feel supported by everybody.

Accommodation and Department

The Creative Arts Department is generously accommodated in several key areas of the school. Drama and Dance have their own studios also located on the ground floor. On the upper floor there are two spacious Art rooms and a Music room, equipped with a good range of musical instruments. The Music and Art rooms benefit greatly from the computer suite which adjoins their classrooms. There are also a number of other rooms to support students' learning including a photography studio, dark room and a number of music practice rooms. IT is a key feature of teaching across the faculty and this is supported through the large numbers of IT rooms and laptops available during lessons. Recently,

Teaching & Learning in the Creative Arts Department

- All teaching is underpinned by the foundations of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding. Staff ensure these key areas are identified within the lesson objectives and success criteria.
- Differentiation is key to ensuring lessons meet the needs of different groups of pupils. Staff are aware of the needs of individuals and ensure lessons are pitched at the appropriate level for all.
- As well as subject specific skills, students are taught a range of transferable skills including Literacy and Numeracy.
- Progress is paramount to student success and all staff employ different strategies to help students make progress and challenge those who aren't.
- There is a real focus on developing independent learning
- AFL is an integral part of teaching within the Department and staff readily include peer, self and parent assessment as a way of providing high quality feedback to students.
- We have high expectations of behaviour in all lessons and we employ a range of effective strategies and procedures to ensure behaviour does not impact on students' learning.
- We strongly believe in working as a team and helping each other to develop.
- Staff are committed to their own professional development and regularly seek opportunities to observe and share good practice.

Curriculum information:**KEY STAGE 3:**

Students in year 7, 8 and 9 are timetabled on a carousel system which enables them to rotate around a cycle of different specialisms within the creative curriculum. Students follow our bespoke 'mastery curriculum' and are given opportunities to explore a broad range of practical skills through completing modules in art, drama, and music.

KEY STAGE 4

Students in year 10 and 11 are provided with a wealth of choices to pursue within the Department. In September 2017 the following subjects are running: GCSE Fine Art, GCSE Drama, GCSE Music, GCSE Art (specialising in Photography and Graphics),

KEY STAGE 5

A healthy number of students choose to remain with Abbeyfield School in the Sixth Form, many of which opt for courses within the Creative Department. In September 2017 the following courses will be running: A-Level Fine Art, A-Level Art & Design, Art, BTEC L3 Performing Arts, A-Level Music and A-Level Photography.

Enrichment.

Our Department is a vibrant and dynamic area of the school. We recognise the importance and benefits of extending students' learning beyond the classroom. Examples include a Drama production, a Carol Concert, an Art exhibition and a number of trips. Students show exceptional pride in seeing their work publicly displayed and develop confidence in taking part in practical events. There are also a range of extra-curricular activities on offer throughout the week for all year groups.