

THE ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT

We are a hard-working, successful team which is led by Scott Meredith, Head of Department, and currently includes four full-time members of Teaching staff and one part time Art Technician.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Within the Art Block there are five specialist art rooms, one with a printing bed, which enables us to work with collograph, dry point and wood/lino cut. Along with printmaking, this room is fully equipped to teach ceramics. We also have a Photography room with twenty-one networked computers all offering the full Adobe Creative Suite 5 and Creative Cloud 2018. Each room is resourced with a range of general art equipment, computers, printers and interactive white boards.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Myton's Art Department achieves consistently outstanding results. We maintain high standards and staff are immensely passionate about the subject and the progress of our students. The ethos we create begins in KS3 with our belief in challenging and engaging students, and is particularly successful at KS4 and KS5 where our students thrive on designing and creating original, personal and independent work.

We are passionate about media exploration and wherever possible, we offer students the choice of media which best suits them. We foster passion and creativity in our students, and challenge them further by introducing different endorsements: Fine Art, Art and Design and Digital Photography (lens-based). We have an Art Department where both students and staff can enjoy teaching and learning. All our students have the opportunity to express themselves and who they are without fear of judgement. We believe that this is when they truly become artists rather than simply students studying art. We want students to be passionate about Art and its ability to communicate, appreciating the work of other artists and understand how these artists can help them to reach their own goals.

Despite the current challenges in education to the creative arts subjects, Art and Photography at Myton remain immensely popular, successful and more important than ever. We ask all our staff and our students to attend the extra-curricular GCSE/A Level sessions that we offer after school most days, as we believe that through these opportunities student performance is enhanced.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The celebration of success is crucial to any Art Department and at Myton, art work features heavily around the whole school. There are two major exhibitions each year; one in school and one within the community and the department is recognised locally for its superb work.

Seeing art first hand is essential for the continued development of students at all key stages and our art trips to London, Birmingham and Compton Verney are used as learning opportunities to inspire.

Life drawing at A Level is a new initiative which we hope will prove to be very popular at KS5. The introduction of Digital Photography a number of years ago is now firmly established and flourishing at Myton. At GCSE, the course is always oversubscribed and we have at least 2 groups in each year group currently (Y9-11). A Level Photography has been successfully reintroduced and we are looking forward to our first year of teaching both Year 12 and 13 concurrently in September 2020. A small darkroom has been pioneered this year and A Level students have been particularly inspired by using our vintage and lomo 35mm cameras, developing their film and discovering a range of creative printing techniques. Our Photography work is outstanding; however, we would like to see more use of moving image taught within this endorsement.

THE CURRICULUM

We have embraced the changes to the curriculum and new specifications and we work closely with exam boards.

Key Stage 3 (Y7 – 8)

All students in Years 7 and 8 take the Art & Design course and are taught in two carousels of six week blocks. At the end of Year 8, students may opt to take Art and/or a Lens based course specialising in Digital Photography.

Key Stage 4 (Y9 – 11)

Both Art and Photography are very popular subjects as a GCSE option with nine mixed ability classes taking OCR Art and Design in year 9-11 and seven classes taking Digital Photography.

The GCSE Art and Photography results are outstanding and consistently deliver results well above the National average. Last year in Art 51% of our cohort achieved 7-9 grade with 32% gaining an 8 or 9. (a Value Added score of 0.32). In Photography 26% achieved 7-9 grade with 11% gaining an 8 or 9 (a Value Added score of 0.23).

Key Stage 5 (Post-16)

At 'A' Level we follow the OCR Fine Art endorsement and again our results have been consistently high and above National Average. (Year 13 A Level results based on a cohort of 8 entries-A*-B 100%, A*- 50%) Four of this year's group were offered direct entry to study Art degrees at University, one student being accepted to the Slade. This is another popular course, which currently has twenty students taking A levels at KS5. Our current Year 12 Photography class of 15 have come from Photography, Art and Media backgrounds and are developing into a dynamic and creative set of students who are mixing traditional and digital media with skill and passion.

WHY JOIN US?

We are looking for someone with energy and enthusiasm and a passion for the subject who is able to take an active role in developing the Art work of students; who embraces child-centred learning; who is creative and inventive in approach; who is willing to work as part of a team and contribute actively to department decision making and is able to support our extensive extra-curricular activities.