

Okehampton College

Expressive Arts Faculty

The Expressive Arts Faculty at Okehampton College consists of eight specialist teachers. Subject areas within the Faculty are Music, Art and Drama at KS3, KS4 and KS5.

We offer a full programme of enrichment that includes lunchtime and after school activities. These work towards Christmas and Easter concerts, art exhibitions, and school productions. Recent musicals include *Matilda*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, and *Les Miserables*. We passionately believe that such activities allow students the opportunity to develop valuable skills whilst enjoying the discipline of performance. In addition, there are various Music ensembles such as Orchestra, Senior and Junior Choirs, and Big Band. The Music Department have successfully toured in Portugal, New York, Barcelona and Hong Kong. The Art courses have recently expanded, so we now offer Art, Textiles, and Photography.

The three departments work closely together both on extended whole school projects, and themes within the Faculty or wider school. We also bring in Arts specialists for workshops and take our students to galleries, theatre and music performances. We have run Art Visits to Paris for KS5, and Drama tours to New York. In October 2017, we took students on an Expressive Arts trip to New York performing a concert, going to a Broadway show and visiting galleries. We have just returned from volunteering in schools in Mumbai, India. We are a busy and vibrant team!

The Faculty is comprised of experienced and newly qualified staff who are all committed and proud to work in an Ofsted Outstanding school. We are keen to innovate and welcome new ideas and approaches. The ethos of the college is friendly and our students are from an increasingly diverse range of backgrounds. We stand for tolerance, manners, and inclusion as well as maintaining academic rigour. We encourage individuality, independence and creative thinking.

There are two specialist Drama rooms with blackout and lighting systems. The Octagon Theatre is the performing space for Drama which is housed in a separate building together with two Music teaching rooms and several practice rooms. The Art rooms are located in one area, with an additional textiles room and a dark room, large storage areas, a dedicated 6th form Art studio and office.

The Art Department has a history of excellent exam results. We currently offer GCSEs in Fine Art and Art and Design Textiles. At AS and A Level we offer Fine Art, Art and Design Textiles and Photography. The exam board we use for all of our GCSE and AS/A Level courses is AQA. Many of our Key Stage 5 students go on to study Art related subjects in Higher Education.

We teach mixed ability classes throughout the key stages. At KS3, students have one lesson of each of our subjects per week, For KS4, students have 4 or 5 lessons per fortnight.

We are seeking to appoint an innovative, passionate and creative Teacher of Art to join our successful team. Applications accepted from Newly Qualified Teachers.

Mrs Valerie Berry
Head of Faculty