

Welcome to the Art Department

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Subject Overview

Chenderit School has a long and proud history of success with the visual arts, and as a result, the school has achieved both Artsmark Gold and has been awarded Specialist Status in The Visual Arts. We are passionate about Art and do our best to ensure that every child can become the artist that they are capable of being and that every child has the opportunities available to them to allow them to reach their potential. We offer a broad spectrum of approaches and disciplines all underpinned with the belief in the importance of traditional observational skills. We encourage students to explore and be inspired by the work of artists and designers from a variety of times and cultures, and celebrate how each individual can find their own creative solution. Art at Chenderit School can be the start of a lifelong journey of discovery and we hope that students continue with their passions well into their adult lives. Art is a low floor, and a high ceiling; where each child can find the magical something that helps them make sense of the world around them and where they are able to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas in new and unexpected ways.

Teaching Aims and Objectives

We want students to become artists in their own right, and for them to develop their creativity. We teach students a range of approaches and disciplines and encourage them to reflect on their practice in order to help develop their individual skills further. We believe that students make most progress when offered support and challenge in equal measure. Our teaching of Art is reflected in our motto: "Enjoy and Achieve", and we celebrate enthusiasm, creativity and passion. Students at all Key Stages develop their practical skills, investigate the work of other artists, develop their own work and create final outcomes in a variety of media.

Course Information

Key Stage 3

Year 7: Students are introduced to a range of approaches and materials, and staff guide them in developing their own practical and analytical skills. Students work with clay to develop their 3D skills, paint to develop their colour skills and use their own drawings to create repeat pattern work. Students develop their competence in the use of the formal elements of line, form and tone. Projects for Year 7 students include clay figures, repeat patterns, colour mixing and landscape painting. Students work individually and collaboratively. Students evidence the progress they make within their sketchbooks.

Year 8: Students continue to develop their skills, working in a range of disciplines in both two and three dimensions. Projects for Year 8 students include natural forms, approaches to drawing and working from insects and animals. In 2016, Year 8 students will select which subjects to pursue at

GCSE level. Staff are able to help and guide students through this process.

Key Stage 4

Exam Board: OCR

Year 9 and
Year 10: If students opt for GCSE Art, they choose either Painting and Drawing, Textiles or 3D as their focus of study. Students are taught the technical, practical and analytical skills necessary for success at GCSE level, and are shown a range of approaches to suit their individual needs. Students develop their drawing skills throughout the year, and towards the end of the year they begin to make decisions about the direction of their own preferred path of study.

Year 11: In Y11, students prepare for their coursework assessment (worth 60% of their final GCSE grade) by creating a portfolio of work that concludes with the completion of a final piece of artwork. Staff monitor, support and guide students during the entirety of this process. The completed coursework unit is assessed in January. Students then begin preparing for their final practical exam (worth the remaining 40% of their GCSE grade). During this preparation period, students can rely on the support and advice of their teaching staff, before sitting a 10 hour practical exam in which they produce their final piece of artwork.

Post 16

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Year 12: Students have a range of options available to them if they decide to pursue Art at A level: Fine Art, Photography, 3D and Textiles. Students begin the course by learning the specific practical and analytical skills required for success at AS level, before producing their own individual portfolio of work in response to a variety of themes. The A level course is a two year linear course, with the work that students produce between June of Year 12 and February of Year 13 assessed as coursework (worth 60% of the final A level grade).

Year 13: During Y13, students pursue their own individually set coursework project, supported and guided by Art staff. At the same time, students are required to complete an extended written response of approximately 2500-3000 words in which they demonstrate their understanding of the works of art they have investigated in the context of their own practical work. The coursework portfolio (worth 60% of the final A2 grade) is completed and submitted by February half term. In March, the department offers a European study trip to support students in preparing for their practical exam, worth the remaining 40% of the A2 grade.

Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)

At KS3, students are set homework every fortnight, and are expected to spend 45 minutes on each task. At KS4, students are set homework every week, and are expected to spend at least one hour on each task. Students should expect this commitment to increase as they near their coursework and practical exam deadlines in order to give themselves the best chance of securing their aspirational target grades. At Post 16, students are set homework every week, and are expected to invest at least five hours a week outside of lessons developing their skills and ideas and driving their projects forward. Again, students should

expect to increase this commitment when preparing for their final coursework and practical exam deadlines.

Often, work is set for students via the school's VLE platform, so students can benefit from specific resources and links prepared for them by subject staff. Students find lots of art resources available to them on the internet - many more than could be listed here, but students should be wary of internet sources when investigating the work of other artists.

www.tate.org.uk is a good general art site that students should find useful.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

There are frequent opportunities for students to get involved with over the course of each year, with individual clubs and activities organised by Art staff after school, and sometimes supported by Sixth Form students. At KS4 and Post 16, extra support is available after school for students wanting to make faster progress in securing the higher grades that they desire.

In addition to all this, students can access a range of extra skill-building tasks on the school's VLE, and completion of these is both recorded and rewarded. We know from our experience that the more that students can practise their art skills, the better they become. As such, we encourage all students to take a pro-active approach to their own learning and we support and celebrate the students who take advantage of this.

Marking and Assessment

Marking, assessment and feedback are integral parts of our work in the Art department. Students are given sketchbooks at the start of Y7 (or, in the case of our catchment primary partners, Y6) which students are required to bring to every art lesson. At all key stages the sketchbook is the best way for staff and students to continue their on-going dialogue about progress, improvement and how each student can continue their individual journey to becoming a successful artist.

Examinations

There are no written exams in the Art Department. Students in KS3 sit a 1 hour practical exam at the end of Y7 and Y8, as well as baseline tests at the beginning of each year. Students choosing an art option at GCSE level sit their chosen OCR course in their chosen specialism. Students in Y10-Y13 sit a mock practical exam of 5 hours to support them in the development of their skills and their understanding of the way their courses are formally assessed. Y11 students conclude their GCSE course with an externally set 10 hour exam. Y13 students conclude their A level course with an externally set 12 hour exam. All of these externally set exams are marked internally, and then the marks awarded are verified by an external moderator. Students in all three of these year groups are given the theme of their exam approximately 8 weeks in advance, and the preparation work that they complete in advance of the practical exam forms 75% of the assessment. Unlike most other subjects, students in Art do not benefit from looking at past papers as a way to practise their exam technique. Each year, students are given a starting point by the exam board from which to begin their personal investigations, so, as such, previous starting points are not relevant. Instead, Art staff are able to show students exemplar work from previous years in order that students understand what is required. Students can investigate the specifications in more depth by following these links:-

GCSE (Legacy course, for final assessment May 2017, for students in Y11):
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82477-specification.pdf>

GCSE (New specification, for students embarking on the GCSE course Y9 & Y10):
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/>

A level: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html>

These specifications can be quite daunting for students to investigate though, so it is important to remember that staff are more than happy to discuss any aspects of any of the courses that require further clarification.