



Art Department

The Art department occupies a suite of 3 specifically designed studios. All are equipped with substantial skylights which produce excellent light for creating art work. The department also has a fully equipped darkroom and kiln.

There is an ever expanding exhibition area with an up to date display system on the first floor of the school. At present, there are three Art teachers, two of whom are part-time, and a technician. We are also mentoring a PGCE trainee.



At St Mary's, Art is a well-established and highly respected department with excellent results. Recent highlights include:

- 100% A*-C achieved in GCSE Art in 2017, with 58% A*/A grades
- 75% A*-C grades across A Level Fine Art and A Level Photography over the last 4 years
- Achievement is outstanding at all key stages with increasing uptake
- Key Stage 3 results are very strong too, with very able cohorts coming through
- Leadership, teaching and the climate for learning in Art are all strong
- An excellent curriculum is in place

The Art Department also offers a vibrant programme of extra-curricular activities that students and staff can get involved in. Recently, we have collaborated with Northern Print to facilitate printing at St Mary's, as part of the Bronze and Silver Art Award. In addition, we have created enterprise opportunities for students from our thriving Art Club to sell their art work for charity, at both school events, and community festivals. Our students have also taken part in the creation of art for Holocaust Memorial Day, many school events linked to the church calendar and the Lindisfarne Gospels Cathedral Celebration. On the recent staff inset day, we also ran a Photography and Art afternoon in Tynemouth.

Setting Arrangements

There are currently 4 opted Year 9 classes, 2 Year 10 GCSE classes, 3 Year 11 GCSE classes, 1 A Level Art group in both Year 12 and in Year 13 and one Year 13 Photography group. All art students, from Key Stages 3-5 are taught in mixed ability groups using guided self - discovery methods. It is the department's aim to lead students on an interesting route through the immense subject shape of art not only to gain more success, confidence and enjoyment, whilst being involved in the activity of making and understanding, but to also develop creative ways of thinking and problem solving. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all themes covered that provide for structured learning and regular assessment.

KS3

At Key Stage 3, students are encouraged to research and explore themes, experiment with ideas and materials and to create using a range of materials and techniques. Year 7, students study visual perception and observational drawing. This moves on to the exploration of more abstract areas of the language of art and students explore the communication of mood and feeling on a given theme using the wider conventions of art. Year 7 begin with a SOW on 'Fantastic Beasts' and then explore 'Sweet Treats'. In the summer term, they look at the theme of 'Underwater'. In Year 8, students are presently exploring the theme of 'Mutant Plants' and are making the sequential development from observations to abstract composition in 2D form to 3D sculptural form in the medium of clay. Students have also studied 'Cultures Around the World' and will study 'Into the Wild' later in the year. In Year 9, students are exploring the theme of 'Story-time' using 2D media to create imaginative drawings, which communicate mood, feeling and expression, through illustration. They have previously studied 'Underwater' will prepare for a mini-mock exam after Easter.

KS4

Key Stage 4 students are all engaged in the AQA Fine Art specification. Students are expected to produce one full project and a portfolio of additional work, which also includes the necessary preparation studies. Themes at KS4, at present, are based on 'Fragments and Architecture'. Students research on personalised themes using a wide range of media and conventions. Key Stage 4 students are timetabled for five 1 hour lessons per two week cycle.

KS5

Key Stage 5 students follow the AQA specification for Fine Art or Photography. Themes such as 'Structures' and 'Journeys' continue to provide the opportunity for highly individual participation, creation and use of media. Key Stage 5 students are timetabled for ten 1 hour lessons per two week cycle. We have recently created a number of studio spaces outside the department where students can work independently.

