

ABOUT THE ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department, at St Paul's, aims to make a significant contribution to fulfilling the school's mission statement. We hope to enable all pupils "to do the best that is possible" within a caring learning environment. The Art department has three key aims. Firstly, students should view art as a fun, interesting and a specialised subject. All teachers within the department love and value Art in all its forms and we want students to match this passion, generating an interest that will remain with them for life. Secondly, we wish to transmit knowledge and understanding of traditional Art and contemporary Art from all cultures and experience the use of a variety of materials and processes. Finally, it is our aim that students continuously develop life skills such as thinking, analysing, evaluating, empathising and communicating as there are very few careers in the modern world that do not require these skills.

The department has four members of teaching staff and a dedicated Art technician. Through a weekly department meeting and frequent informal discussions, we work as a team, collaboratively planning, sharing ideas and good practice, contributing to decision-making in the department and supporting each other as necessary. Between us we deliver Art to all pupils at KS3 and to those many pupils who opt to study Art at KS4 and KS5. We also teach A level photography.

At Year 7 and Year 8 we have one 1 hour 20 minute lesson per week. Teaching groups are mixed ability, with 'teaching to the top' at the core of our recent planning. Pupils investigate a range of topics using a range of media. At year 9, 10 and 11 we have 2 hours a week. We are teaching the Edexcel Art and Design course for GCSE. Each year pupils experience producing work under examination conditions to prepare them for the externally set assignment. Our schemes of work are broad and allow flexibility for teachers to be able to differentiate within their groups. At KS5 we teach the Edexcel A level Fine Art and we have 6 hours per week and AQA A level Photography as a separate qualification.

The department is fortunate to be located in K-block, with four purpose-built studios for Art and a computer suite for photography. Students also benefit from the availability of graphics tablets to use and photography and digital SLR cameras for A level photography students. The person appointed will join a highly experienced Art department, and will have a real opportunity to enhance the further development of this successful department.