

ART AND DESIGN



Likely topics spanning all three terms:

Throughout the year we will introduce basic skills, techniques and new media. In year 7, the most important are:

- Using line, texture and tone in drawings from direct observation;
- Colour theory and colour mixing in different media, especially paint;
- Collage;
- Different kinds of representation, including abstract art;
- Three dimensional work using clay or wire.

We will look at the work of at least one artist or art movement and/or art of another culture. Pupils are introduced to critical studies and research but are not expected to research extensively.

Likely homework tasks - spanning all three terms:

- These are similar for all projects and aim to cover a range of activities including some of the following:
- Observational work – should be done from close observation of real objects (not from pictures or photographs);
- Research and work based on other artists - it is helpful if parents facilitate trips to the library but do not supply the information; relevant information and imagery is accessible to pupils on the school's computer network.
- Gathering resources - finding relevant pictures from colour supplements, actual objects, unwanted materials to be used in a collage or construction etc. (we would not expect parents to have to make special purchases);
- Presenting visual and other information attractively for e.g. making an artist's 'factfile';
- Imaginative or design work - producing drawings of ideas and explanations;
- Experimentation - exploring different materials or different techniques relevant to the work in progress;
- Graphics/illustration. Usually producing a title or introductory page for a project.
- Reviewing – making written annotations about their own work or the artist(s) studied, setting targets and giving opinions using key vocabulary

A lot of emphasis is placed on keeping an attractive and well laid out sketchbook. Pupils are often encouraged to work back into the pages of their sketchbook to enhance presentation.

For most projects pupils will be given a project brief which contains information about the artist(s), an outline of the work to be covered and homework tasks. Parents may find it helpful to consult these sheets.

Key vocabulary and other important information are given throughout the year and are recorded in a 'glossary' at the back of sketchbooks.



Additional resources/ideas/stimuli:

- At least one drawing pencil: 2B, 4B or 6B and eraser;
- A fine-tipped black pen;
- One type of colour medium (pencils, felt tips, paints, etc.);
- Scissors and a glue stick (for use at home);
- Sketchbooks are provided at the start of Year 7 but will need replacing when full, with a good quality or hard backed book, A5 or A4 size. Pads that are glued together or have perforated pages are not suitable. Subsidised books are available from the Art department.

Books

It is always valuable to have information and imagery by the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists, Cubists and other major twentieth century art movements. Dorling Kindersley books are very accessible for pupils at Key Stage 3, *Understanding Modern Art* is a concise and inexpensive paperback covering most major twentieth century artists. The books in the *Taschen* range are very competitively priced and have excellent colour reproduction.



Computers

We encourage pupils to use the Internet for research but studies produced from computer print outs tend to lack detail and accurate colour. Pupils should therefore try to use these mainly for information. We are always glad to see pupils using computers to assist in design and other practical work.



Galleries and museums

It is difficult to predict which are the most valuable to visit since this often depends on temporary exhibitions, however any experience of painting, sculptures or other artefacts at first hand is always valuable – particularly if these are overseas! Pupils should try to record their impressions with ‘thumb-nail’ sketches and by purchasing post cards to put into their sketchbooks.

The Victoria and Albert has a large collection of decorative arts – historical and from other cultures. The Brighton museum has a good collection of ethnic objects. Other exhibitions are always advertised in the Art department.