

“I am always doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it.”

Vincent Van Gogh

Art and Design at Noel Baker Academy

At Noel Baker Academy we believe that Art has the power to transform, to illuminate, to educate, inspire and motivate. Art lessons help children with the development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, risk taking, and inventiveness. The arts provide challenges for learners at all levels. Art Education has the ability to connect pupils with their own culture as well as enabling them to make sense of the world around them.

Our Art and Design curriculum for KS3 has been designed to sequentially teach students skills and techniques necessary for them to become independent learners in the field. Our philosophy within the art department is one of entitlement, we passionately believe that our pupils deserve to learn about and be inspired by the greatest artists of all time. We aim to equip them with lifelong skills in Art and Design which are interchangeable skills applicable to many future roles. All projects within art have a basis in drawing from direct observation, we then build upon essential skills by introducing a wide range of knowledge and techniques to both stimulate the students and prepare them for further studies in the field. Lessons provide students with the opportunity to think creatively whilst learning a range of skills and techniques through, printmaking, painting, ceramics and drawing.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 – Celebrations

Topic 1: Formal Elements; In Year 7 students undertake two main projects during the year which are split into smaller projects, each of which are Knowledge, skills and technique based. In the first project, pupils will learn about the Formal Elements of Art by producing a series of drawings from direct observation, the project then develops into learning about the artist Vincent Van Gogh and students will produce a painting influenced by Van Gogh.

Topic 2: Aboriginal Art; the second project celebrates Aboriginal art and focuses on inspirational indigenous artist Betty Mbitjana. Students will explore a variety of materials and learn fundamental colour theory and mark-making techniques before producing a painted final outcome.

Year 8 – Contrasts

Topic 1: Natural Forms; In Year 8 students will undertake two main projects during the year which are split into smaller projects, each of which are knowledge, skills and technique based. The first is looking at developing use of media with a focus drawing natural forms. Pupils will then develop the project by looking at the artist Georgia O' Keeffe's artwork and produce a monoprint influenced by her work.

Topic 2: African Art; this particular unit has a focus on African art and how it has inspired the artist Pablo Picasso, students will explore how the art of African culture impacted upon Western art at the start of the 20th Century. Through a range of drawing techniques students will make studies of artefacts from African culture and experiment with various processes and techniques. Students will then prepare and complete an outcome inspired by African art.

Year 9 – Layers

Unit 1: Landscapes; In Year 9 students will undertake two main projects during the year which are split into smaller projects, each of which are Knowledge, skills and technique based. The first will focus on landscape painting, with a particular focus on the artists Claude Monet and Georges Seurat.

Unit 2: Birds; this final unit explores the work of contemporary artist Mark Powell who produces refined drawings of birds on antique documents and maps. Pupils will explore how to develop different textures and produce work that responds to the theme of layers. Pupils produce work through applying various mixed media techniques and will conclude the project with a ceramic outcome.

KS4 GCSE Art

Two folders are created throughout the course, a coursework folder and an examination folder. The coursework folder is developed throughout year 10 and one term of year 11 and constitutes 60% of the overall grade. The examination folder is started in the spring term of year 11 and follows a theme given by the examination board, the folder constitutes 40% of the final grade and culminates in a ten hour practical examination. Both folders contain investigation of the artwork by established artists and artwork produced by the students. Students must also produce written work exploring the theme, analysing artwork and explaining their personal response to the project.

Key topics taught

- Drawing from first hand and second hand sources using a range of mark making techniques.
- Experimentation with a range of materials and techniques.
- Development of painting skills with an emphasis upon use of materials with the aim of producing large pieces of work to a high standard.
- The study of key themes in Art, for example, portraiture and landscape a exploring these themes within the contexts of culture, history and contemporary practice.

Art and Design

The course consists of 60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment. Each component of the examination consists of four assessment objectives.

Assessment Objective One is concerned with developing student's awareness of Critical and Contextual studies. A range of established Artists and contemporary artists are studied throughout the two year course. Work is produced visually with supporting text.

Assessment Objective Two is concerned with developing student's understanding about ideas and the uses of different materials. They are encouraged to use a wide variety of materials with confidence.

Assessment Object Three is concerned with developing students recording skills. We encourage all students to record from a range of experiences.

Assessment Objective Four is concerned with final outcome.

Art and Design Enrichment activities

At Noel-Baker, we offer co-curricular opportunities.

This year, the following after school clubs are available:

- Art Club
- Photography

We also offer pupils the opportunity to attend a range of different trips during their time here including: gallery visits and outdoor trips to the Peak District where pupils explore landscape drawing and photography.

Further studies and career progression in Art and Design

You can continue your Art and Design studies at AS and A-level, where the same titles are available. You'll be able to choose areas of study that specialise in different disciplines within the creative industry. If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You'll develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard this highly.