



King's High  
School

INSPIRE – ART  
Create

# Our ethos

Art is intrinsic to the life of King's. Whether our students aspire to have careers in the creative arts industry, or whether they want to develop their personal creative skills and build confidence, the subject offers something for everyone. As a department, we believe that Art is as important as literacy; it is essential for wellbeing, knowing our past and preparing for our future, embracing emotion and allowing for self-expression. Quite simply, Art is an essential component of our daily lives and allows us to be different, it is what makes us human and impossible to replicate – put simply to be creative.

Within our forward-thinking department, we nurture individuality, we encourage independence and celebrate diversity. Art requires bravery; to go against the grain and have confidence and conviction in being unique.

At King's, students are encouraged to think beyond their limits and seek out exciting new concepts. We research, we explore, we refine, and we respond.

Art is crucial for our wellbeing; it allows us to connect with our culture and respond to our surroundings. Art crosses all divides, it benefits our mental health and is completely inclusive.

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## Fine Art

Curriculum Art is taught by specialist Art teachers and delivered to every year group. It is a popular and successful subject at GCSE and A-Level. We are also supported by a full-time Art technician who supports practical delivery and co-curricular clubs. Standards and exam results are outstanding; but more importantly- students have wonderfully exciting and fulfilling experiences whilst studying Art and Fine Art.

We have the expertise to support our A-Level students with their Art & Design university applications which range from a diverse selection of courses such as Fine Art, Graphic Design, Architecture, Product Design, Textiles to name a few. Recent leavers have gained places at prominent institutions such as Cambridge (Architecture), Central St Martin's (Fine Art), Falmouth (Fine Art), Edinburgh (Textiles) – all are fiercely competitive courses with small numbers of intake therefore the success rate is even more notable. We provide sustained and thorough support throughout the whole UCAS process from writing personal statements to portfolio preparation and mock interviews.

We run daily Art clinics for our examination students that focus on support, allowing for continuation with practical work and stretch and challenge encompassing alternative media and techniques, as well as holding 1:1 sessions, in order for students to receive specific and tailored support. The success of the department is clear, not only within our state-of-the-art facilities, through our public examination results but also across the school site as displays illustrate our incredibly high standards and diversity of approach.

## Co-curricular Art

Co-curricular Art is also extremely popular and successful with many activities across all age ranges. We offer to name just a few: Year 7, 8 and 9 ceramics clubs (both at lunch and after school), Year 8 printmaking, Year 9 drop-in, GCSE support and extension and the A level students have an open-door opportunity to work whenever they have study periods, lunchtime and after school.

## Facilities

As a Foundation, we are fortunate to have state-of-the-art facilities. At King's we have three Art studios flooded with natural daylight which is vital for our subject. We also have a ceramics studio which has four potters' wheels, two kilns and a clay store. Our printmaking studio allows for processes such as screen printing, etching, lino, woodcut and collagraph. Our darkroom offers the opportunity to process film and create cyanotype photography along with photograms and dark room prints. Collectively and across the curriculum, the facilities provide our students with outstanding opportunities to work in any art medium that they choose which is so empowering.

## Exhibitions

Every year, the department hosts a joint exhibition with Warwick Preparatory School. This fabulous display encompasses work from the youngest children in our Foundation from Nursery right through to the eldest in the Upper Sixth. We exhibit publicly and open with the support of local dignitaries and VIP's. Recent exhibitions have been held at The Court House, Warwick and also The Old Shire Hall, Warwick.

Online exhibitions are regularly curated and shared via our website page.





### Clubs and workshops

Art offers an extensive range of clubs and workshops which are inclusive to all year groups and students. Lunchtime clubs, as mentioned previously, are offered every day and we also support additional creative activities within the department such as Origami club for Year 7, and also Knit and Chat club.

### Jewellery and Glass

Run as part of the Friday Afternoon Activities programme, jewellery and glass is offered on a carousel whereby students design and create their own silver jewellery using professional tools and methods. The workshop is led by a professional glass and jewellery artist.

### Illustration

Run as part of the Friday Afternoon Activities, Illustration is offered by a guest artist who offers a wide range of illustration styles and techniques. This is a skills-based activity for students to extend and develop their creativity, imagination and curiosity within this 2-dimensional discipline.

### Textiles

Run as part of the Friday Afternoon Activities, Textiles focuses on raising skillsets further and includes: hand embroidery, fabric dye, silk painting and weaving techniques.

### Pottery

Run as part of the Friday Afternoon Activities, Pottery offers the opportunity to learn and develop thrown pottery techniques on the wheel, extending this skillset further to create a wide range of outcomes whilst also hand-building and glazing.

### Photography

Run as part of the Friday Afternoon Activities, Photography is offered enabling students to develop their digital and dark room photographic skills. Photoshop is also a key aspect of this session.

### Art Visits & Trips

We run numerous trips across all age ranges which encompass gallery visits to London and Oxford whilst also retaining strong links locally in and around Warwick. Art trips play a prominent role in the Inspire programme and we offer cross-curricular visits such as Geography and Art at Compton Verney, and also with Biology on a biannual basis, we run the On-Form sculpture trip to Oxford for Key Stage 3 which is a wonderful experience.

### Masterclasses/series of talks

This year we have launched the Inspire Art programme which complements the whole school Inspire initiative. Within Inspire Art, we aim to promote the power of creativity and raise the profile of Art across our school community.

Since February we have had the most amazing series of talks from a wide range of artists, art historians, designers and universities. Under the umbrella of Inspire Art the lower sixth students oversee and manage the new Art Society which is entitled the Da Vinci Society. This amazing co-curricular society appeals to all age ranges and offers talks, workshops, conversations over art, design, engineering, product design and so much more.

