



Newport Girls' High School Curriculum Summary

Faculty: English and the Arts	Subject: Art and Design
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Our Vision

Faculty Vision

The central aim of the English and Arts Faculty is to engender a lifelong love of culture, literature, drama, art and music that goes above and beyond the examination syllabi. We believe that students should encounter and engage with the very best examples of human creativity in order to inspire them as both learners and citizens of the world.

Within the faculty, we aim to ensure that students engage with a broad, diverse and representative selection of work in order to build a bridge between the traditional and the modern. We want students to feel confident when exploring 'the giants' of culture and the arts without feeling daunted or intimidated. Equally, we are passionate about celebrating and exploring work by artists, writers and musicians who have been excluded from the canon in the past, so that the tapestry of our curriculum is truly representative of what art and culture has to offer. By placing this ethos at the heart of our curriculum, we hope to challenge common misconceptions about the arts and demystify the creative process.

Above all, we want students to feel empowered to be creative and to stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before them.

Subject Vision

Within Art and Design education at NGHS our key aim is to provide students with the best possible understanding of Art and Design through learning about key artists, art movements, designers and craftspeople as well as focussing upon skills and techniques to allow each student to creatively thrive. We aim for each student to develop their own art style and form their own opinions on Art and Design and how these opinions can inform their own work. Introducing students to projects which link to careers is integral to our curriculum planning as it enables learners to link the subject with the world of work and allow them to consider studying an Art and Design based course at University level.

Curriculum Intent

At Key Stage 3, we plan all projects with skills and techniques at the forefront, this is to ensure that all students have become confident in using a range of media. In Year 7, students have one lesson of Art and Design each week where students focus initially upon the formal elements of Art such as line, pattern, colour, shape, tone and texture. In Year 8, students have one lesson of Art and Design per week where they build upon previous skills and become more confident in their creative decisions working on more project-based lessons.

At Key Stage 4, which begins in Year 9, students choose whether they continue to study Art and Design, this choice is made during the spring term of Year 8. Within this year, the focus is heavily concentrated upon ensuring that students' skills are well-developed. As a department, we choose 2-3 projects which span the year, where different techniques are taught and a variety of different artists and art movements are studied. The exam board used is OCR which offers a 60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment split.

At Key Stage 5, the department delivers the A-level course with the AQA examination board. Students have a brief where they can choose from a range of starting points. From September through to the following Easter, lessons focus upon a range of skills including photography, printmaking, sculpture, life drawing and digital art. Again, coursework is weighted at 60% and the externally set assignment, which is started in the February of Year 13, is weighted at 40% of the overall grade.

Outside of lessons, students have the opportunity to visit art galleries and several visits are planned throughout the year. Within school, there are several competitions, both internal and external which students can partake in. Including the Royal Academy Young Artists competition and Newport Photographic Club competition. In addition to this, there are a number of popular in-house competitions such as the annual house art and photography competition.

Curriculum Sequencing Rationale & Implementation

Schemes of work through all key stages are designed to provide students with a balanced Art curriculum where the importance of demonstrating key techniques and skills is at the heart of our Art and Design teaching at NGHS. We ensure that students learn about a range of artists, art movements and cultures and have a deep understanding of how art is reflective of history and the development and invention of certain materials and technology. Through the study of Art, students learn about world events, society and beliefs and are therefore provided with a rich and broad understanding of Art and History.

KS3:

Year 7 students start with learning about the formal elements of art, which form the foundations of their work in the subject throughout their school career. There is a focus on developing a deeper understanding of shape, colour, pattern, tone, texture and line. Within this project, students learn about a range of artists who demonstrate each of the elements as a focus within their work. Following on from this, students study drawing skills and learn how to draw using a range of strategies and techniques. Drawing is a fundamental aspect of Art and Design education which underpins a student's ability to complete all other types of artwork, therefore we ensure that students have a good grasp of this skill to allow them to become confident with drawing. Students move onto a project focussing on an artist such as Wayne Thiebaud and complete a range of work through drawing, painting and ceramics.

KS4:

Art and Design at KS4 starts in year 9 and during that year students study a range of artists, movements, mixed-media, 3-D work and printmaking. As an example, students complete a digital art project focussing on illustration. Students also learn how to complete various types of printmaking such as etching, mono-printing and lino printing. The year is designed to prepare students for projects studied at GCSE and they are given more creative freedom within their projects. Students are also encouraged to produce work from their own imagination and start to make their own choices regarding media. At this stage, students are also introduced to oils and start to explore working with this material, building on the fundamental skills they developed during KS3.

KS5:

In KS5 students complete skills and technique-based lessons which are structured and are aimed to ensure that all students (including new students to the 6th form) are re-introduced to skills taught previously, but at a more advanced level. SLR photography is taught in detail at the beginning of the course, using school photography equipment. This is to ensure that students are able to have an advanced knowledge of how to capture primary source material, which is so vital as to the success of their own art work. Students complete a coursework project where the skills and techniques taught are embedded within. Students learn how to work with a range of media and eventually make their own choices as to the direction of their own projects and media used. Towards the end of Year 12, lessons become more tutorial based, with the emphasis being upon guiding students to become confident artists. Students are given guidance on university choices at KS5 should they wish to study an Art and Design based course at university.

For specific information relating to the content of the curriculum in each year group, opportunities for wider personal development and enrichment and ways for parents to support their daughter in her learning within this subject, please see the Learning Overviews on our website.