

Westcliff High School for Girls

Art Department

The Art Department is a warm friendly and efficient team of two full-time and one part time teacher and one technician, accommodated in a suite of three teaching rooms, a department staffroom / office and storage area. We are a high achieving and successful department, enjoying good relationships with our pupils and with other staff.

We have very high academic success: we have a 100% pass rate at GCSE and A Level and approximately one quarter of our A Level students go on to study Art at Degree level.

Our programme of study at KS3 is designed in line with the National Curriculum. We follow Eduqas Art and Design: Fine Art at GCSE, Eduqas Art and Design: Fine Art at Advanced Level. We currently work with full class sizes at KS3, two GCSE groups in each of years 10 and 11 (approximately 20 students per group), and one advanced level group in each of years 12 and 13 (8 – 15 students per group).

The curriculum relies increasingly on a confident and broad knowledge of Art History and the work of other cultures, as well as a broad range of skills including ceramics, print, 2D materials and computers. Drawing is central to all projects at KS3, GCSE and A Level.

We work with three dimensions as part of a general and more specialist approach throughout the department and are committed to incorporating computing skills in students' work throughout the Year groups. We arrange outings to galleries regularly across the School and run Life Drawing classes for Sixth Form artists.

We play a large part in the community of the School, offering extra curricular lunch time activities, and other extra-curricular programmes. We have a full exhibition of students' examination assessment work, which is regularly attended by local VIPs.

The Art department works very much as a team where individuals' strengths and ideas are valued in helping to build and consolidate good working practice.