



# INFORMATION ABOUT THE ART DEPARTMENT

## 1. Introduction:

Chestnut Grove Academy was designated as the first Visual Arts College in the country during the 1990s. Although this status, the official designation and associated funding has long since disappeared, Art remains at the very heart of Chestnut Grove and the legacy of our Arts College status lives on in the vision and ethos of the academy. At each Key Stage there are many opportunities for extended art learning beyond the classroom which can be accessed through our after-school programme of clubs, through trips both locally and internationally and through the community link work we do with other schools and organisations.

Chestnut Grove Academy's Art curriculum encourages students to creatively consider, question and engage in the world around them. Whilst challenging and promoting students' confidence in independent problem solving, it prompts them to develop and apply a range of artistic techniques and processes in new and unfamiliar contexts.

In Key Stage 3, all students receive one hour of formal lessons in Art. In addition, each year we select 30 students from Year 7, based upon their aptitude in Art. These students are our 'Art Specialists'. This year, over 200 students applied for an Art Specialist place. Beyond their timetabled Art lessons, Art Specialist lessons are based around providing students with workshop style learning, where they are able to engage with practising artists and use visits to exhibitions as a source of inspiration to create their own art. Key aspects of our Art Specialist provision include:

- a) Residential trips: Cornwall 2020, Barcelona 2019, Berlin in 2018. Previous art trips have included visits to New York and Paris.
- b) Gallery visits to a wide range of galleries in and around London.
- c) Specialist Projects: In 2019, our students participated in artist workshops led by the Linnean Society, which resulted in several students receiving certificates and prizes for their achievements. In 2018, our Art Specialist students were involved in artist led workshops, where students created screen printed illustrations, inspired by the novel the students were studying in English. During the Spring of 2017, our students designed a pavilion for the Pump House Gallery, in association with a team of professional architects and designers; this was on display as part of the Wandsworth Arts Fringe. In 2016, our students designed the illustrations for the book 'Afterlife', which supports young people suffering from bereavement.

## 2. Current Staffing:

- Head of Department
- 1 art teacher
- 1 art technician
- 1 part-time pottery specialist

## 3. Curriculum:

### a) Key Stage 3:

KS3 art teaching is structured around students learning practical art skills and techniques, alongside contextual studies, which underpin the thematic content of each project. The KS3 art provision includes creative opportunities for all students to work within a range of discipline, including: ceramics, sculpture, photography, print-making and painting. Observational drawing, art criticism and self-evaluation is embedded in all taught art projects.

## **b) Key Stage 4:**

The KS4 Art curriculum offers the GCSE in Fine Art. The courses provide specialist workshops which enable students to strengthen and develop their skills and techniques within their chosen disciplines. In addition, in-depth art and artist's work analysis inform students' development of their own creative processes.

## **c) The Sixth Form (Key Stage 5):**

Fine Art is a popular course at A-Level. At KS5 students are expected to work creatively in a highly independent way. Projects are designed by students in consultation with their Art teachers. There is broad scope for both the thematic content and practical processes within Art that students wish to investigate.

The course prepares students to continue their Art studies at either Foundation or Degree level. Chestnut Grove has an excellent success rate of students being offered places at some of London's best Art Schools.

## **4. Accommodation and facilities:**

Our academy has worked very hard to now be able to boast some of the best Art teaching, accommodation and facilities in London. These include

- Art 'pavilions' with specialist equipment;
- Kiln and pottery wheels
- Printing press
- Sewing machines

Chestnut Grove moved into our new building in July 2017. This marked the start of the next exciting episode in the school's evolution. The art pavilions have been retained having been fully refurbished and reconfigured, enabling us to create a dedicated space for students to practise both during lesson time and in their study periods. The Art department have been integral to our plans for the displays throughout our new academy building; our vision is to enable students to exhibit their Art work throughout Chestnut Grove.

## **5. This post:**

This is an important and valued post within our staffing structure which will provide opportunities to teach a wide range of Art groups across the Academy. The post holder will be expected to actively contribute to the Art department and will be able to develop their own projects under the guidance of the Head of Department.