



# Gordon's School Art Department

## Introduction

The Art Department consists of two teachers including the Head of Department. We have two part-time technicians, one for Art support and the other Art and Photography. We have Art and Photography coaches who mentor our scholars, and run period 7 activities. The Department teaches across two dedicated classrooms. The larger Art classroom was purpose built over the 2022 summer and includes a dedicated photography studio, a Sixth Form work area and office space. GCSE and A level students have access to a set of Surface Pros for photography work. Both rooms have interactive screens and storage areas. All pupils' complete Art and Design at KS3 with many pupils opting for GCSE photography or Art and Design, followed by the option of carrying on to A level.

## GCSE/ A Level Courses

We use the Edexcel exam board to deliver both GCSE Art and design and GCSE Photography. In both Art and Design and Photography, students complete coursework worth 60% and an externally set exam worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

At A Level, we follow the Edexcel A Level syllabus for Art, Craft & Design and Photography, where students complete coursework and an externally set exam. We run specialist workshops for students to work with professional artists and extend their portfolios. In recent years this has included silk painting, wire sculptures and painting. A level students regularly go on to University to study Architecture and Fine Art.

## Examination results

- 2025 A Level Art results 100% A\*-B grades
- 2024 GCSE Art had a progress score of +1.00 with 40% achieving 9-7 grades and 85% 9-4
- 2024 GCSE Photography achieved progress ALPS 2 with 94% achieving 9-4 grades and has been consistently high performing for a number of years

These results reflect the academic nature of the Department and the high expectations placed upon both our staff and students.

The Art department is recognised for its highly successful, well attended and prestigious Art and Photography exhibitions (for both GCSE and A Level Art).

## **Co-curricular activities**

The department runs multiple Art clubs for all age groups. These are focused on different specialisms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, 3D work and photography. These are incredibly popular and run at full capacity.

Each year we organise and hold the Inter-House Art Competition for all age groups.

We run various competitions with other departments, and enter work for external competitions regularly too. Of note, two students have been successful in the selection for the Young Artist's Summer Show at the Royal Academy of Art for two consecutive years.

The Art department has continued to maintain its PTI status year after year, recognising outstanding leadership and teaching.

The department currently organises visits to London Galleries and a Year 10 visit to Kew Gardens and the Barbican estate.

We currently run a sixth form Scholars programme, with students receiving private 1:1 tuition 3 hours a week from a specialist artist or photographer.

We organise and enter artwork from all year groups for the yearly Summer Arts Festival held at Gordons. Student and staff artwork is exhibited at the end of the year for sale to raise money for charity.

For two years in a row Gordon's exhibited at the 'Centrepiece' exhibition at the Lightbox Gallery in Woking.