



Key Stage 3 Curriculum: Art and Design

The new Art and Design National Curriculum taught at Caldew School provides opportunities for students of all ages and abilities to be creative through a variety of techniques and materials. Through carefully designed projects, students explore the greater world around them. They study the work of other artists which inspires and influences their own work.

Students have a fantastic opportunity to experiment with clay, print, drawing, the use of IT, photography, textiles (including felting and batik), painting and 3D sculpture. Students are taught how to problem solve through this process. They apply their findings in new contexts and are constantly encouraged to reflect and evaluate upon their work. This empowers them to be more confident and to become independent learners.

For instance, Year 7 students study the paintings of Henri Rousseau and learn about layout, typography and presentation of work. They also focus on their own 2D drawing skills including completing study sketches of natural objects. From these sketches they will design a painting plan of a jungle scene and then complete a final painting.

During Year 8, amongst other things students study Aboriginal Art and how Art and Design illustrates and also contributes to their culture as a fundamental part of their life narrative. Students use this study as a basis to work with mixed media techniques including paint, clay, drawing skills and print making as well as develop their understanding of symbolism. The historical context of the Aborigines is considered carefully so that students can recognise the impact of lifestyle and history upon Art.

Year 9 students rehearse the GCSE coursework skills that will be required if they choose to follow Art in Key Stage 4. Students study, amongst others, the work of Mark Hearld, a contemporary print artist who is commercially successful. They learn to recognise current trends in Art and what makes a piece of Art both popular and successful. The students consider the design process and from their own research and drawings they then create strong final piece or pieces.

Many students take great pride in the progress that they make in this subject area which has created a pleasant, productive and rewarding environment in which to work.

In all of this, students quickly become aware that Art is a fast moving subject and that many skills need to be learned, retained and re-applied. With hard work and commitment students will achieve high quality portfolios which demonstrate the fundamental processes of Art and Design. These processes are transferable to other areas of the curriculum and provide a strong foundation for further education and a springboard for success beyond the classroom.

