

The Art Department

We are looking for a specialist sculptor, preferably qualified to MA level, with Ceramic, Casting and Construction capabilities being essential to the role. The successful candidate will ideally already have experience of teaching to A level or beyond. The role requires a practising artist who can inspire, encourage and challenge pupils to achieve their full potential. The role will involve teaching a full timetable as well as being available for practical art sessions for pupils in wider curricular slots.

The Leys School Art Department is housed in the Rugg Centre along with Design & Technology and Computing. The Art Department is well established, well equipped and very successful. There is a strong belief in academic approaches, with a focus towards Fine Art. Drawing is at the heart of all the work. The highly qualified, experienced and professional team have very high expectations of the pupils and yet the atmosphere is relaxed, lively and interesting. The relationships with pupils promote confident and secure creativity. The department has an excellent reputation and the pupils' work regularly wins awards locally and nationally.

The large and dramatic Drawing and Painting studio (including a mezzanine for 6th form studio spaces) is located at the top of the building along with the Art Office. On the floor below is the Printmaking Studio, with facilities for etching and screen printing. The Ceramic and Sculpture area is located on the ground floor and includes a clay preparation area, kiln room, large office and a main workshop. The foyer of the Rugg Centre and The Trumpington Gallery in Great Hall are used as exhibition areas. The department is staffed by two full-time and one part-time specialist Art Teachers and three part time Technicians.

The Art Department has a strong record in recent years. Results at GCSE and A level are amongst the strongest in the school. In 2023, 96% of GCSE candidates were awarded a Grade 8-9 above. At A level, 60% gained an A* grade and 93% A*- A, with 100% A*-B. Many of our pupils proceed to extremely competitive Art Schools within London and the UK. All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 are taught Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture. At GCSE the take-up is usually between 25-35 pupils. At A Level we expect to have approximately 30 pupils with some arriving new to the school for Sixth Form study. In both GCSE and A level we follow the OCR specification, finding the balance between preparatory research, a marked essay and an ambitious final piece to work well.

Life drawing classes, Trips to London and Europe and artists workshops complement an external exhibiting programme and there are opportunities for pupils to use the Art Facilities out of lesson time each weekday evening. The Department is well resourced and has an extensive Art library and the upper sixth pupils have their own workspaces. The department is light and airy and a superb environment in which to work.

Art Department Personnel

Jessica Hebden MA	Head of Art
Clare Battison BA	Art and Ceramics
Victoria Dawson MA	Printmaking
Maggie Devine BA	Art Technician
Marina Ruiz Fernandez MA	Art Technician
Anna Doherty MA	Art Technician