Visual Art

CURRICULUM INTENT

STOCKSBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Visual communication dominates our daily lives—from social media and advertising to design and technology. Developing visual literacy is essential for students and adults alike, enabling them to interpret, question, and create meaning in a society driven by imagery.

The Art Department is committed to educating and inspiring students through a varied and engaging curriculum. We aim to develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed for individuals to explore and express creative ideas with confidence, gradually taking responsibility for their own progress as independent learners.

Importantly, we aim to foster a lifelong interest in imagery and creative thinking, regardless of whether students progress to KS4 or pursue art-related careers. By building confidence and cultural awareness, we help students appreciate the power of visual communication and its relevance in every aspect of modern life.

With our curriculum we aim to identify each student ' s creative strengths, stimulate curiosity, challenge preconceptions, and foster the capacity to become self-motivated, self-directing individuals. We want students to take these attributes into a dynamically changing world with an open mind to others ' influence and confidence in their own ability to make an impact.

At all stages ideas for creative exploration will be challenged through active engagement with the work and approaches of artists and practitioners from historical, contemporary and culturally diverse backgrounds. This requires students to not only appreciate alternative attitudes and aesthetic values, but to also make artistic links that enhance the development of their own practise. We feel it is essential that students observe first- hand the work of artists through galleries, museums, visiting artists and events making connections between work made in art lessons and the tangible impact of art experienced.

Furthermore students are taught to feel that they ' can too ' , that their work can also travel beyond the classroom and impact on and communicate significantly with others in the community, through exhibitions, displays and being encouraged to be involved in creative opportunities made available to them.

We are committed to inclusion and equity, ensuring that every learner—regardless of starting point—can access and succeed in Art. While work is assessed against formal elements and success criteria shared with students, we celebrate progress from all starting points and recognise that progress is not always linear. Every step forward matters, and we value effort, resilience, and creative risk-taking as much as final outcomes.