



ART DEPARTMENT AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

This is a strong and successful department, which attracts very able students onto examination courses. Emphasis is placed on fine art, painting and expression of media with a lively approach. At present well over half of the year group in Year 10 chooses to opt for Art at GCSE level, one quarter of whom will continue to study Art for A level. The department operates with two full time and one part time specialist staff, assisted by a very able technician.

Facilities currently comprise two large specialist rooms with good natural light and high ceilings and a spacious, well designed Sixth Form studio. There is also a functioning kiln room and storage areas adjacent to each room.

The department is well resourced and students have access to three fully equipped computer rooms and an extremely well stocked library with a very knowledgeable and helpful librarian.

In the first three years students are taught in form groups and have one double period of Art each week. GCSE groups have two double periods and usually number 20-25 per group. A Level sets are smaller, generally comprising 10-15 students per year. These groups are taught by both teachers and occasionally supported by the technician who is a practicing artist and qualified in adult education. All examination groups currently follow the EDEXCEL unendorsed courses.

Results reflect the high level of commitment shown by students and staff and are some of the best in the school. AS and A2 students consistently achieve 100% grades A*/C, whilst the GCSE grades average at over 85% Grade 9 and 100% Grades 6-9.

Each year a significant number of A Level art students will progress onto Art and Design related courses in higher education.

The essential Art disciplines of drawing, painting and 3D work are currently taught across the age range. An awareness and understanding of the work of others is integral to all units at each level. The main focus has been on 20th century artists in recent years and this is supported by annual research visits for examination students which have included Cornwall and Paris in recent years, as well as more local venues such as The Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The department offers wide scope for extra learning, with lunchtime and after school clubs available to the full age range. In addition the department generally involves itself in the creation of sets and props for school productions. The work of students is always respected and admired, both within the school and the wider community.

Mrs F Henson
Head of Art

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