

Art and Photography

The Intentions of the Art and Photography Curriculum

Art is the purest expression of human emotion. Art can help us to understand and have an impact on the world we live in. Art can positively affect student wellbeing and empower individuals, enabling them to engage with our rich visual and cultural heritage. It allows them to express themselves and become visually literate and perceptive.

Art and Photography at Nova will engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress year on year, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. They will develop fluency in the formal elements of drawing and painting and will progress to apply their basic skills and knowledge into their own projects at KS4. This will prepare students to better understand the world, to study subject in post-16 qualifications, go on to university to study subject and supply knowledge and skills useful in work and appreciation of culture.

There are three key strands to Art at Nova:

Skills development - Students are exposed to a wide variety of materials, starting with a strong foundation in drawing and painting and progressing onto further media to build their confidence and skills incrementally. This will ensure that all pupils: produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences to become proficient in a range of materials.

Knowledge – Students will learn the core formal elements of Art and Design and will be able to follow the rules before having the freedom to break them. Students will be introduced to a number of artists and will be able to analyse work by artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms. Students will be able to evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art.

Exposure to Art – Students will have access to an art library and expert teacher knowledge about a wealth of artists and artworks. In addition to this, students will visit galleries and museums alongside a rich extracurricular offer, such as Art History Club.

The art room is a space where students have the freedom to express their ideas and thoughts and work creatively. Students comment on the bonds they form with classmates because of their shared interests and ideas. The art teacher is someone they can bounce ideas off, whom can help their thoughts and creative ideas become a reality.

The Learning Sequence in Art and Photography

Art and Photography are taught in a combined curriculum across year 7, 8 and 9 with students interleaving skills from both Art and Photography across all projects.

Academic Year	Autumn Term	SPR1 Assessments	Spring Term and Summer Term 1	SPR2 Assessments	Summer Term 2
Year 7	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: An introduction to Art and Design.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far	Tools: Observational skills and the formal elements.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far.	Portraits: The Art and history of the artist Selfie.
Year 8	Comic Art: An introduction to POP Art, Digital Art and Photography.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far	Landmarks: Cultural heritage of Swindon and beyond.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far.	3D City: Effects of Urban sprawl / overpopulation explored with 3D sculptures.
Year 9	Fashion: An introduction to Art and Textiles throughout the ages.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far	Transform / Photography: Introduction to digital and physical photographic manipulation.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far.	Mini Mock GCSE – Close Ups: A full mini project run in the same format as GCSE. On the theme of close ups.
Year 10 Art	Under the sea: Recap of core skills with a focus on observational drawing, painting and photography.	First Mock exam 1 day off timetable to complete coursework project 1 final piece.	Identity: Students start to select their own direction for their projects, with 1:1 guidance from teachers.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far.	Second Mock exam 1 day off timetable to complete coursework project 2 final piece.
Year 11 Art	Students revisit coursework projects refining work after teacher 1:1 feedback and guidance.	First Mock Exam: Refines content from Y10 and Y11 so far – upgraded final pieces.	Externally set assignment: Students select and follow a brief outlined by AQA.	Second Mock Exam: Trial run for exam final pieces.	Final Art exam held over 2 days in April / May.
Year 10 Photography	Introduction to Camera skills: focus on taking photographs.	First Mock exam 1 day off timetable to complete coursework project 1 final piece.	Transform: Introduction to editing photos using digital and manual media.	Students are holistically assessed on content taught so far.	Second Mock exam 1 day off timetable to complete coursework project 2 final piece.
Year 11 Photography	Introduction to the dark room and chemical photography.	First Mock Exam: Refines content from Y10 and Y11 so far	Topics and outline content	Second Mock Exam: Trial run for exam final pieces.	Final Art exam held over 2 days in April / May.

Assessing the Impact of our Curriculum in Art and Photography

Art and Photography students are assessed in all year groups following the assessment objectives from the GCSE criteria; these are the key areas in which students will need to do well to become confident in the subject. They are assessed on exploring a range of artists and materials, reviewing and amending work to refine outcomes and strength and quality of outcome. Students are also assessed on how they evidence their Art journey.