

SATIPS

Support and training in Prep, Primary and Senior Schools



Editorial:

As a school that teaches pupils up to age 18, the discussion for most of this year has been focused on the reformed subjects, of which Art is one of this year's reformed subjects for AS and A Level, and GCSE in Sept 2016. The main change is that there are more independent choices, not just for schools and departments but also individual pupils. An AS class can be split into pupils who want to sit the exam and others who are using it as a trial run for a one year A Level, some are completing an AS course as an enrichment without gaining a qualification due to the AS grade being mandatory for UCAS applications, for the first time. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is worth more points than an AS and so pupils are encouraged to consider the take-up of these, nominating a teacher to mentor their independently led research. Art teachers have argued that the structure of the EPQ is that of the current Art qualification, in that they also pose a question, independently research, document findings, develop ideas, reach conclusions and produce an extended piece of writing.

GCSE students are encouraged to choose an increasingly smaller number of subjects and so once the compulsory subjects are ticked, it leaves very little choice. This will surely see a drop in the take-up of the Arts, which could impact on art scholarship applications for prep schools. It is imperative, therefore, that we arm children with the confidence to make decisions and record ideas and observations before they have to give the subject up.

Art day brings local prep schools together

In our annual tradition, six schools came together at Moreton Hall, bringing their Year 6 and 7 art scholars, or indeed whole year groups, with the intention that each child would produce a large piece of mixed-media artwork to take back to their school. Some teachers used it for an instant display, others using it as a springboard for subsequent work for their scholarship portfolio. Each year we a very different theme and consider how we can involve the departments skills and interests of the teachers. 🍷



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This activity always includes some element of drawing and concludes with a composition of mixed-media.

Themes over the past few years have included 'Fish' and 'Circus' but this year we ran 'A Greek Day'. The session began with drawing some Greek lead chess pieces from observation, which was a challenge for some children, but with the reformed GCSE Art, dedicating 25% of total grade to drawing, we feel that it is important to develop these skills in each project. Natural light was used, and a range of pencils were provided to capture the tones.

Large Greek sculpture busts from the V&A provided inspiration for the central features of the composition, using charcoals and chalks to create classical forms. These were completed on off-white sugar paper which provided a mid-tone. They were ripped out and added to the chess piece image.

The third element was inspired by a local artist. Jane Farrington spoke about her work which is inspired by her theatrical links. She asked the children to think of a stock character from the theatre as she demonstrated her unique, spontaneous and mixed-media technique with the use of collage. Her original artwork was displayed so the children and teachers could see the techniques up close. The children were excited about using their imagination. There were no rules, no proportion and they could mix media such as emulsion paint, Quink inks, marker pens and aquarelle tone pencils etc. The children thoroughly enjoyed bringing all the elements together on an impressive scale. Tea stain united and aged the features.



Due to high demand, we ran two sessions. The following day, we posted the work to the schools with flyers explaining the project to parents. Images of the children engaged in the process as well as the final pieces were displayed on our website.

Our local supplier, WMS, kindly sponsored the event by providing all the materials and goody bags for the art teachers.

Michelle from the Ryley's school commented: "I would just like to thank you for hosting such a fabulous afternoon. Your staff and students made us feel so welcome, and our students thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon, as did we."

Julia from the Yarlet school said: "Your hospitality was most appreciated and our Art teacher, would also like to pass on her grateful thanks to Jane Farrington, who was inspiring in leading the afternoon workshop. Our pupils



really enjoyed their time with you and the opportunity to take part in a creative workshop. Our next project is already planned - drawing, painting and printing meat for an exhibition 'Moreton Boucherie'.

Heritage Week

Heritage Week saw pupils researching their family heritage. Parent speakers, assemblies, whole school displays and an art exhibition! Delftware pottery was the theme for Years 5 & 6. They learnt about the history of the pottery and the limited blue and white colours and drew representations of their grandparents' and great-grandparents' jobs. They fired wax-resist pottery bowls, produced a large painting of a piece of ceramics using wet and dry materials and made papier mache bowls and charges in a range of sizes before decorating in the style of Delftware, including dates and images from their families' past.

Recommended products

Liquitex Paint Marker set

8-15 mm wide nib, set of six
There are several brands of these markers - some fillable, interchangeable nib sizes. The colour pigment is strong and ideal for dark coloured sugar paper, fabrics, metals and wood etc.

Aquarelle graphite pencils

These are more expensive than regular pencils and ideal for all ages with wonderfully impressive results from simply applying a damp brush. Even the most reluctant drawers respond positively to the effect. You can purchase fillable brushes for a constant supply of water and they are a novelty, but these aren't necessary.

Anilinky brilliant watercolour set of 12 by Koh-i-Noor

Available from Seawhites. No more expensive than regular tins of school watercolours but there is no scrubbing to gain a small amount of colour with these. A dab of a wet brush will yield a strength of colour akin to vibrant inks but with no need to pour inks into ice cube trays. They can also be bleached out.

Djeco gel pastels

Vibrant soft pastel giving strong clean colours.

Recommended Seawhite products

Seawhite travel journal
128 pages / 64 sheets of 130gsm
white cartridge paper
Journal style covers with elastic retaining band
Inner pocket inside back cover
Place marker

Seawhites dip pen holder

British-made, chunky, comfortable to hold and fits an assortment of nibs. 

Successful projects this term.

Pre-loved toys provided fascinating inspiration for a Year 8 project. Lots of Art teachers that I have met collect objects of some sort and appreciate quality and design. In our department, all teachers love old bits and pieces, and our office is testimony to this with the overspill from our own homes' windowsills and lofts. Car boot sales and charity shops have provided many interesting objects for observation drawing over the years. Recently, one class focussed on drawing several objects including a giant cog, a wooden lacrosse stick, a hollow pumpkin, a rusty set of mixer taps, a gnarled branch, an old piece of Indian fabric, glass bottles from a local dig and even a melted exposed plug.

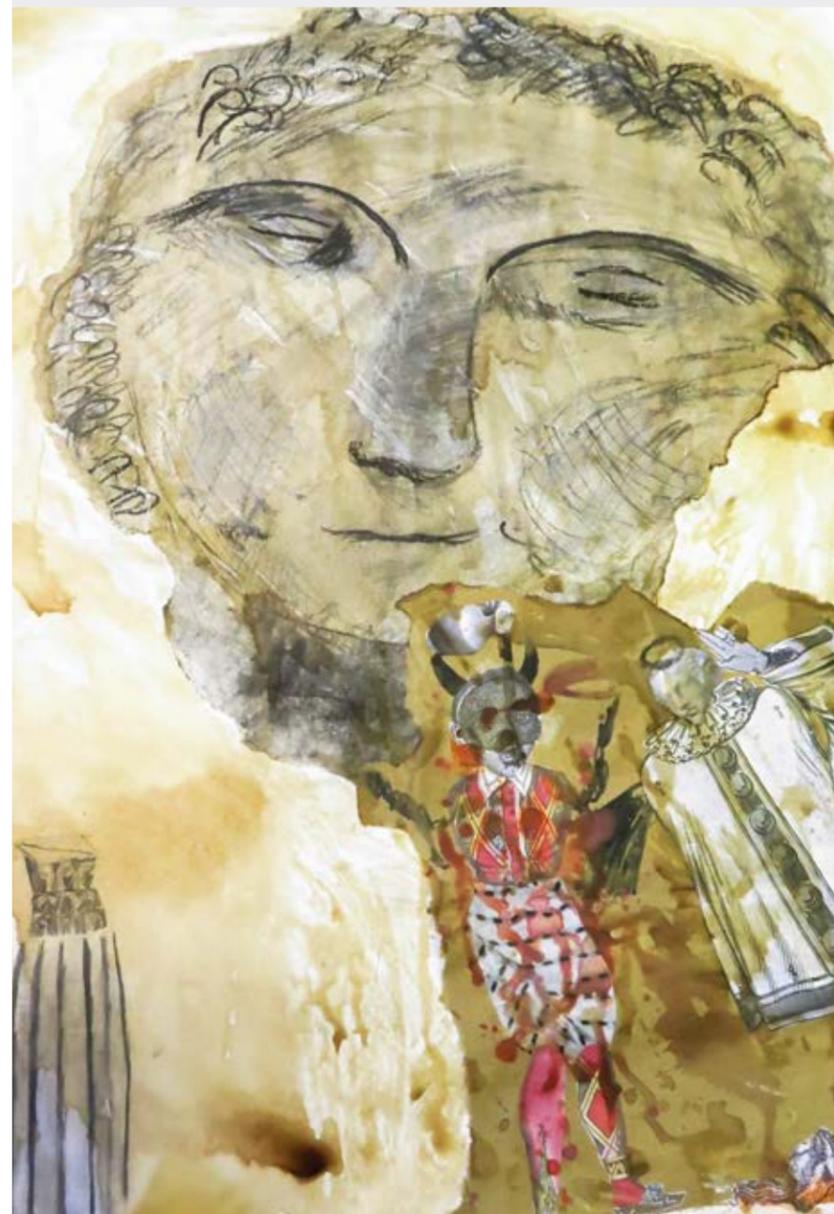
We all brought our old toys in and the project began with drawing them from close observation. They photographed a couple of favourite toys together, altering the images using Photoshop. The images were overlaid photographs of patterns from a local visiting textile designer. The image was gridded and scaled up and the challenge was to combine wet and dry materials. Sketchbooks were used to learn and experiment with techniques. The final A2 sized images had a unity but were all certainly individual and created a great sense of personal achievement.

Clocks - Art and Structures Year 9

Simply made from four pieces of wood and a clock mechanism, pupils designed their clock with the images telling a story. It was developed from their imagination and from an earlier art project. Characters were cut from soft metal sheet, which were painted with acrylic marker pens before scratching into to create relief patterns. Those who struggled with several attempts, practised with silver backed lids from take-away cartons. Frames were decorated with diluted paint to enable the wood grain to be revealed, and with designs taken from their artist research. Features were glued or stapled in place.

Bayeux tapestry – Art and Textiles Year 5

Linking with history as well as DT, pupils created their own battling figure or horse in action. First drawing in sketchbooks to understand the style, before enlarging onto a six metre length of fabric to form a group piece. They took it in turns to add the colours and cut old socks and recycle jumpers for added fabric detail. Their individual characters were cut from fabric templates, stuffed, glued, stitched and painted with acrylic paints and patterns added with acrylic marker pens. These characters were suspended in front of the large design for a class display.



Support staff

We are luckily enough to currently have two assistants in our Art department. We are an age 3-18 school and know this is a situation of privilege but it has made such a difference to the smooth running of the department. With older students allowed to work in any media, the support is needed for ideas but also for improving health and safety when one-to-one is needed for specific techniques. This has also meant that lower down the school we are able to adopt this same methodology. The assistants can take small groups to develop photography, teach Photoshop skills individually, support EAL students and push those identified as AG&T.

Time spent auditing materials and preparation is minimised for the teachers and it ensures discussing targets, tracking, teaching the children on a more individual basis and giving verbal feedback is prioritised.

Our lunchtime AG&T Art group is proving a great success. All have quality A3 sketchbooks that are taken home and worked on to encourage the same confidence. They can be used to support scholarship entries too. Years 4-6 are challenged with experimenting with new techniques and materials and using a variety of traditional and contemporary artists to learn new styles. This week focused on Lucien Freud, looking at his studies of birds and thistles and drawing with ink pens, using a wet brush to loosen the lines. This developed into wax-resist, using candles and vibrant inks and collage. The only rule of the session is that they have to finish the page in the 30 minutes allowed.