INFORMATION ABOUT THE ART AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT



**1. Introduction:**

Chestnut Grove Academy was designated as the first Visual Arts College in the country during the 1990s. Although this status, and the official designation and associated funding has long since disappeared, Art remains at the very heart of Chestnut Grove and the legacy of our Arts College status lives on in the vision and ethos of the academy.

Each year we select 30 students for Year 7, based upon their aptitude in Art. These students are our ‘Art Specialists’. This year, over 200 students applied for an Art Specialist place. On top of the normal art lessons, Art Specialist lessons are based around providing students with workshop style learning, where they engage with practising artists and use visits to exhibitions as a source of inspiration to create their own art. Key aspects of our Art Specialist provision include:

1. Residential trips: Barcelona 2019, Berlin and Cornwall in 2018. Previous art trips have included visits to New York and Paris.
2. Gallery visits to a wide range of galleries within London.
3. Specialist Projects: In 2019 our students participated in artist workshops led by the Linnean Society, which resulted in several students receiving certificates and prizes for their achievements. In 2018 our Art Specialist students were involved in artist led workshops, where students created screen printed illustrations, inspired by the novel the students were studying in English. In Spring 2017 our students designed a [pavilion](http://www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk/Art-Specialist-design-new-pavilion-for-the-Pump-House-Gallery?returnUrl=/default) for the Pump House Gallery, in association with a team of professional architects and designers; this was on display as part of the Wandsworth Arts Fringe. In 2016, our students designed the illustrations for the book ‘Afterlife’, which supports young people suffering from bereavement.

**2. Staffing:**

* Head of Department
* Department 2ic
* Art teacher

**3. Curriculum:**

**a) Key Stage 3:** All students in Years 7/8/9 have one hour of Art a week; this is increased to two hours for our Art specialist students. The curriculum is broad and balanced and is enriched with educational visits. All students have the opportunity to experience and develop their skills in:

\* Painting and Drawing

\* 3 Dimensional Studies

\* Textiles

\* Graphic Design (including Printmaking and Computer-

Aided-Design)

\* Analysis of their own art work and the work of artists and designers

**b) Key Stage 4:**

At GCSE students can choose either:

* Visual Art
* Digital Art
* Art Textiles

**c) The Sixth Form:**

In the Sixth Form we currently offer Fine Art and Photography A Level courses, both of which are popular options. We have a track record of sending students to highly regarded foundation and degree courses and actively support students with their applications and portfolios.

**4. Accommodation and facilities:**

We are very lucky to be able to boast some of the best Art and Design accommodation and facilities in London.

* Art ‘pavilions’ with specialist equipment;
* Sixth Form Art studio
* Kiln and pottery wheels
* Printing press
* Sewing machines

Chestnut Grove moved into the new building in July 2017. This marked the start of the next exciting episode in the school’s evolution. The Art pavilions have been retained but are refurbished and reconfigured, enabling us to create a dedicated Sixth Form space which can be used for teaching and exhibitions. The Art Department have been integral to our plans for the displays throughout the new building; our vision is for students’ art to be on display throughout Chestnut Grove.

**5. This post:**

This is an important post in our staffing structure and will provide opportunities to teach a wide range of groups across the Academy. The post holder will be expected to contribute actively to the department and will be able to develop their own projects under the guidance of the Head of Department.