

HIGHGATE



Senior School and Sixth Form
Art

highgateschool.org.uk

Studying Art

Highgate has a long history of the visual arts, with many teachers and pupils having made their mark on the art world. Renowned Welsh artist, Sir Kyffin Williams was the Art Master from 1944-73, where he taught Royal Academician, Anthony Green and Patrick Proctor, a contemporary of David Hockney.



Kyffin Williams in art studio

Today, our large Art department stimulates conceptual thinking and technical making, where pupils are energised to explore their personal area of interest. We promote individual and independent learning, which is evident in the ideas and making presented at the end of course exhibitions, including drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, illustration, film, installation, sculpture, architecture and fashion projects.

From Year 7, pupils are given the opportunity to explore, experiment and refine their ideas

and techniques, and are introduced to a wide range of historical and contemporary artists through carefully crafted schemes of work.

The high standard of making is reflected in the diverse artworks created by pupils through their coursework and exam projects, and in the consistently high exam grades achieved. Each year, pupils successfully apply to highly regarded university degree courses, paving the way for diverse careers in the creative industries.

Developing core skills

“Pupils are encouraged to stay open-minded and not be too self-critical. We can teach them concrete technical skills, no matter how much art experience they have. One of the many special things about Art is its breadth and diversity – there is something for everyone.”

Susannah Keay, Director of Art

We want all pupils to learn the importance of art, regardless of career aspirations, as a powerful channel to enhance creativity, community, mental health and happiness.

Weekly Art lessons in Years 7 and 8 help to form solid foundations in core skills, such as drawing, etching, painting, clay, structural design and portraiture. Pupils are encouraged to approach their work with an open mind, building confidence in their new skills and a sense of freedom to experiment. During these formative years, a mixture of practical demonstrations and one to one meetings encourages pupils to take their own initiative. It is normal with a creative subject that processes may not work first time, but this can be a positive experience, allowing pupils to work through a challenge and become more robust and resilient.

In Y9, pupils have a double art lesson every fortnight to develop their ideas further, working towards a Key Stage 3 exhibition in Lent term, where every pupil in Years 7, 8 and 9 presents a piece of work for a group display.

As part of our cross-curricular project series, which explores how subjects interact, Y8 pupils combine their skills in Art, Biology and History to examine the work of the nineteenth-century palaeontologist Mary Anning, her experience as a female scientist and the contemporary issues of extinction and climate change.



GCSE and A level

Highgate offers GCSE Art from Year 10 and A level Art and Design from Year 12, with the number of pupils opting for the subject consistently high over the past few years.



At this stage, the focus of our teaching is pupil centred, with an extensive series of workshops intentionally timetabled at the beginning of the year to work out where their interests lie. These practical sessions introduce new ways of working such as wearable sculpture, digital image manipulation and experimental drawing. Professional artists and designers come in to lead painting and textile workshops, together with a 12-week life drawing programme.

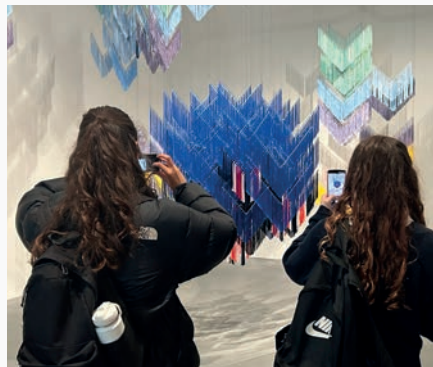
One to one tutorial time enables teachers to get to know pupils and understand their ideas in more depth. Group critiques, where different classes are mixed, offer a learning opportunity for pupils to articulate their ideas and find out where there are gaps in their thinking. Pupils develop the capacity to be curious about the world through visually

exploring aspects of daily life, with GCSE themes such as 'Urban Life' and 'Self'.

In the Sixth Form, A level Art and Design students are given their own dedicated space to work, which they can use after school or during free periods. The coursework structure allows pupils to develop their project management skills to become better equipped at organising their time. In Y12, students complete a personal investigation unit which makes up 60% of their exam assessment, through workshops, life drawing and evidencing learning and research in work journals and portfolio sheets. In Year 13, the final 40% is an externally assessed assignment which requires working in a self-directed manner, with the support of two teachers, to produce a collection of work that shows exploration, research, technique and skill.

Study Trips

An important part of studying art is learning about other artists' work. Our school's location in London means we have easy access to some of the world's best galleries and museums. Our study trips include visits to the Barbican, Royal Academy and Tate, both for inspiration and to understand how artists work within today's world.



Higher Education & Careers



In preparation for further study, we support pupils in the development of their portfolios which is generally required for A level, foundation and degree courses. Alternatively, some pupils choose to study Architecture, Art History, Fashion Design, or go directly onto an art or design related degree.

Our pupils have gone on to study at top UK and international institutions such as University of the Arts (London), Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford), Bartlett School of Architecture, London College of Fashion, and Parsons School of Design (New York).



Facilities and Teaching

Our Art department is located in the Mills Centre on Bishopswood Road with light-filled studios and gallery spaces.

State-of-the-art facilities, equipment and materials allow pupils to explore a wide range of disciplines, from painting to sculpture, filmmaking to textiles. The building is a creative hub shared with the Design, Technology and Engineering department which gives pupils the opportunity to see different art and design ideas come to life. Art pupils can also benefit from using DTE equipment such as 3D printers and laser cutting. All art materials are provided and if a pupil is looking to use a specific material not in stock we can usually source it from elsewhere.

We have an expert team of six Art teachers and two technicians, all highly qualified with Fine Art and Architecture degrees, and a wealth of professional experience in making, curating and exhibiting their own work. Outside of lessons, the art studios are open at lunchtimes and after school from 4pm-6pm for pupils to make work under staff supervision.

Facilities include:

Printmaking – screen printing and printing presses.

Photography studio and darkroom.

IT suite for graphic design, film editing, animation.

Ceramic kilns.

Casting – plaster, latex, alginate, wax.

Textile tufting and weaving.

Art library.

Three gallery spaces and project room for installations and large-scale works.



Exhibitions

On the ground floor of the Mills Centre is a designated art space, the Kyffin Williams Gallery, named after our former Art Master.

Throughout the year, there are opportunities for pupils to display their work-in-progress for class discussion, and to exhibit their final exam coursework. Friends, family and carers are encouraged to visit the Mills Centre gallery to view the Y7-9 exhibition, pupils' work in progress, end of course exhibitions and outside professional artists. A selection of artworks can be seen on the walls around the school.



Co-curricular Activities

Outside of the classroom, there are a range of co-curricular clubs and activities for pupils to develop their creativity or find a new hobby. These include Year 7 Art Club, Drawing Skills, Ceramics, Fashion Illustration and Weaving clubs.



Gallery

This is a small selection of recent artwork made by Highgate pupils.

