



YOUR
SCHOOL
JOURNEY

YEAR 7

Art & Design

Focus: The Formal Elements, Design Movements, and Textile Arts Objective: To establish a rigorous foundation in the formal elements of visual language, understand the wider importance of creative expression, and execute sustained pieces inspired by influential historical movements.

Phase 1: Visual Fundamentals & The Value of Art

- **The Importance of Art:** An introduction to the cultural and societal value of art, driven by an investigation into the contemporary, text-based work of Bob and Roberta Smith.
- **The Formal Elements:** A skills-led investigation into the core building blocks of art: line, tone, shape, pattern, and form. Students explore these elements through a diverse range of creative techniques and material testing.

Phase 2: Contextual Study & The Bauhaus

- **Design Movement Analysis:** A sustained, critical investigation into the highly influential Bauhaus art movement.
- **Skill Consolidation:** Students develop and refine cross-disciplinary skills in photography, drawing, and painting, directly applying the formal elements learnt in Phase 1 to geometric, Bauhaus-inspired compositions.

Phase 3: Textile Arts & Sustained Practice

- **Artist Investigation:** An in-depth exploration of the pioneering textile artist Anni Albers.
- **Material Exploration:** Students investigate the mechanics of print, pattern generation, and weaving, culminating in a sustained, highly textured textile piece.

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YEAR 8

Art & Design

Focus: Technical Portraiture, Mixed Media, Photorealism, and Digital Integration
Objective: To develop advanced technical drawing skills focusing on accurate human proportion, rigorously investigate mixed media techniques, and introduce digital manipulation into contemporary art practice.

Phase 1: Technical Proportion & Portraiture

- **Anatomical Drawing:** A rigorous introduction to the development of technical drawing skills. Students focus explicitly on calculating and drafting accurate facial proportions, breaking down the mechanics of drawing the eyes, nose, hair, ears, mouth, and neck.

Phase 2: Media Investigation & Photorealism

- **Mixed Media Experimentation:** Produce portraiture using a diverse variety of techniques, rigorously testing tonal drawing, collage, watercolour, and pastels.
- **Contextual Research:** Investigate the American artist Chuck Close, critically analysing his approach to both highly abstract and photorealistic portraiture.
- **Sustained Realisation:** Produce a sustained, large-scale piece of drawing inspired by Chuck Close, consolidating the technical proportional skills acquired in Phase 1.

Phase 3: Digital Art & Contemporary Processes

- **Digital Manipulation:** An introduction to Adobe Photoshop and the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD) within contemporary fine art.
- **Layered Techniques:** Combine physical and digital processes by producing a physical collage, followed by advanced carbon paper printing and refined watercolour applications.

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YEAR 9

Art & Design

Focus: Landscape Topography, Textured Surfaces, Transcription, and Composition

Objective: To master the representation of depth and texture within landscape art, rigorously transcribe the work of established practitioners, and independently plan highly composed final pieces.

Phase 1: Landscape Fundamentals & Tactile Surfaces

- **Depth and Perspective:** A skills-led investigation into establishing clear foreground, middle-ground, and background planes within a composition.
- **Surface Manipulation:** Rigorous experimentation with mixed media—including ink, wax resist, and collage—to engineer highly tactile and textured physical surfaces.

Phase 2: Contextual Transcription

- **Artist Research:** Students select from the evocative work of Ian Murphy, John Piper, or Henry Moore to anchor and inspire their independent creative journey.
- **Sustained Transcription:** Produce a highly accurate, sustained transcription of the chosen artist's work, actively demonstrating a deep understanding of how to replicate complex textured surfaces.

Phase 3: Independent Planning & Final Realisation

- **Compositional Planning:** Produce a rigorous range of thumbnail iterations based on student-selected landscapes (urban or rural).
- **Final Piece:** Demonstrate a high-level understanding of atmospheric perspective, dynamic composition, and mixed-media application in a finalised, sustained landscape outcome.

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