

# Supporting your child's learning in... Visual Arts

Parents can often feel out of their depth when it comes to supporting their child in the Visual Arts, especially if they don't feel confident in the subject themselves. However, at Heathfield, we encourage students to view art as a creative process, and not one that requires you to always be 'good at drawing'. Creativity comes in many forms so, if your child feels that art is not a subject they excel in, we encourage you to positively reinforce those areas of creativity they enjoy.

## TEXTILES

Textiles allows students to explore their ideas through manipulations of fabric, paper, stitching, collage and printing, to name but a few of the many techniques that are used. Often it is seen as subject where you sew but this is not the case. Sewing makes up a small proportion of the course and much of this is done on the sewing machines. Exploring in Textiles can be as simple as weaving two contrasting fabrics together, or sticking fabrics down onto paper to create an abstract landscape. Found objects can often form the basis of beautiful textile explorations. Try making a weaving loom from found sticks and string, then weaving dried grasses, flowers or leaves to create a natural textile weaving.

## ART

A fantastic way to build confidence is to encourage your child to doodle. This can be a task they do in front of the TV when they have finished their home learning. These doodles can be from imagination or life, in black and white or colour – whatever your child feels most comfortable doing. We are always very keen to see the work that students do at home; we often hear from parents how much their children enjoy creating at home and it would be fantastic to be able to see this work and praise all the effort that has gone into making it.

## CURRENT TOPICS

Current topics being studied this term are...

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Art - Fabric Lenny bird sculptures	Textiles - Misfit toys	Art - Towner Schools Project  Photography – Exam: past, present and/or future  Textiles – Exam; past, present and/or future	Art - landscapes  Photography – Exam; past, present and/or future	Art and photography – Exam: past present and/or future	Art and photography – Exam: transformations	Art and photography – exam: Truth, fantasy or fiction

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Almost all phones now have cameras on them. Usually these are surprisingly high quality and can take an excellent picture. There are also a whole host of apps that enable photos to be edited in particular styles. While the selfie is of course enormous fun, do encourage your child to seek out interesting compositions from around the house and in our stunning local countryside. Think of taking close-up shots of reflective surfaces, textures and patterns, alongside distance shots of sunsets, cityscapes, seascapes or looking up between the leaves of a tree to the blue sky above. Remember we also have the Heathfield Calendar photography competition that is open to all staff, students and parents.

## HOMEWORK

We have two ELPS in year 7 and year 8. Year 7 have now finished Fabric Lenny Tee Shirts, creating some outstanding pieces of work that we hope to see on the catwalk for the yearly Heathfield fashion show. Year 8 are just completing their Pop art wearable item and again we are looking forward to seeing some outstanding pieces of work that we hope will make it onto the catwalk in April.

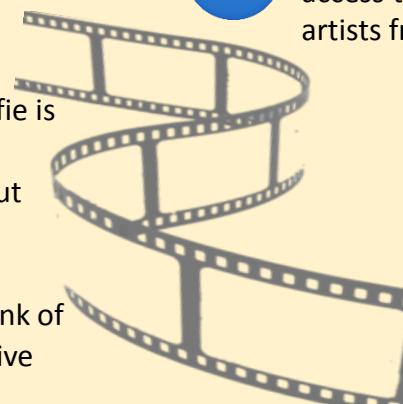
## Quick Links



Website for students and teachers to access the work of contemporary artists from around the world.



BBC Bitesize Art and Design Pages



## GCSE SUPPORT SESSIONS

Tuesday	GCSE Photography support, Mrs Damazer A2
Wednesday	GCSE Art, Ms Ireland A6 GCSE Art and textiles, Ms Davies A4 GCSE Photography, Mr Causton A3 GCSE Photography, Ms Damazer A2
Thursday	GCSE Art and Textiles, Ms Davies A4 GCSE Photography Mr Causton A3

## ART TOP TIPS

1. Never worry if your work is good enough. If you are enjoying it – keep on doing it and look to your teachers for advice on how to improve.
2. Use your camera phone to capture special moments, views and experiences, but make sure you spend time considering your composition! Refrain from point and shoot photographs and instead look through the viewfinder to create a balanced composition that captures the mood of where you are or what you are doing.
3. If you are keen to improve your ability to draw accurately, spend time drawing from observation. HINT- You should spend more time looking at the object you are drawing, than at the paper you are drawing it onto!
4. Bury your head in an art book or here [www.art2day.co.uk](http://www.art2day.co.uk) and find artists that inspire you. Keep printed examples of their work in a small book and do copies of their work to gain an understanding of the processes artists use.
5. Go to exhibitions. There is so much amazing art in the world and here in the UK we have an incredible selection of galleries that exhibit some fantastic work. We also have some excellent local galleries in Eastbourne and Brighton that are well worth regular visits.

