



The Grey Coat Hospital

Key Stage Three Curriculum Plan - *Subject: Art*



Year 8

Half Term (HT)	Topic Area / Focus:
HT1	In Year 8, students build on the skills developed in Year 7 and become increasingly confident, creative and independent artists. Across three engaging projects, students explore colour, Surrealism and portraiture, while working with a range of materials and techniques. Students develop their ability to observe, experiment, create, analyse and evaluate. They continue to develop their drawing and painting skills, explore and refine creative ideas, and make increasingly independent artistic decisions. Students also study a range of artists, learning how artists use different materials, techniques and ideas to inform and inspire their own work. Students work in a sketchbook throughout the year, recording ideas, experimenting with materials and documenting their creative journey. Homework and independent research support and extend classroom learning. Practical work, sketchbook development and written analysis and evaluation are used to assess students' progress. By the end of Year 8, students will have developed a broader range of artistic skills and greater confidence in making, discussing and evaluating artwork, providing a strong foundation for their future Art studies. Drawing Skills & Animal Portraits Students begin Year 8 by developing their observational drawing skills through a range of drawing exercises. They explore line, tone, texture, shape and form, while developing greater accuracy and proportion. Students then explore how colour can be used as tone to create form and depth in an animal portrait. They study the work of contemporary artists and experiment with colour mixing, tonal variation and different colour relationships, including warm, cool and complementary colours. Students develop their painting and brush control skills before applying their learning to an individual animal portrait.
HT2	Animal Portraits: Colour & Tone Students continue to develop their understanding of how colour can be used to create light, dark and mid-tones, form and depth. They experiment with colour mixing and tonal variation before applying their ideas to a finished A4 animal portrait. Students refine their painting techniques and make thoughtful choices about colour and composition. They reflect on and evaluate their finished artwork, considering the choices they have made and the skills they have developed.
HT3	Me as a Beast: Surrealism Students are introduced to Surrealism through the idea of creating hybrid creatures that combine human and animal characteristics. They explore the work of artists including Nicola Hicks and David Chan, considering how artists use animals, imagined creatures and expressive forms to communicate ideas. Through creative activities and Surrealist games, students explore how unexpected combinations can generate imaginative ideas. They consider their own personality and characteristics when developing their hybrid creature. Students develop working drawings and photographic references while exploring symbolism, meaning, composition, tone, texture and mark-making. They also experiment with oil pastel to create a monoprint inspired by their developing ideas.



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HT4	Me as a Beast: Developing Ideas Students continue to develop and refine their Me as a Beast artwork, building on the ideas and skills explored in HT3. Students use gridded tonal drawing to improve accuracy and develop their understanding of how tone, texture and mark-making can create form and character. They refine their hybrid animal and human imagery, develop their composition and complete a final tonal drawing. Students then create a related oil pastel monoprint, making creative decisions about imagery, tone and texture. They reflect on their creative process and evaluate how successfully they have communicated their ideas.
HT5	Important Woman: Portraiture Students begin exploring portraiture through the theme of inspirational women. Students begin exploring portraiture through the theme of inspirational women. They investigate a range of portraits and explore how artists use line, tone, texture, form and composition to represent people. Students will research an inspirational woman of their choice, focusing on their achievements, historical significance or personal inspiration rather than simply physical appearance or celebrity. Students will develop their understanding of facial proportions through observational drawing and the use of gridding techniques. They will create proportion studies, develop tonal drawing skills and experiment with collage and mixed media as they begin to develop their final portrait.
HT6	Important Woman: Portraiture Students complete and refine their Important Women portraiture project, applying their understanding of observation, proportion, tone and form to create a resolved tonal portrait. Students also create a coloured collage portrait, developing their ability to combine imagery, colour and materials effectively. They present and evaluate their finished artwork, reflecting on their creative choices and the development of their skills. Students also have the opportunity to view the Year 11 and Year 13 Art Exhibition, allowing them to experience and discuss the work of older students and see different approaches to developing and presenting artwork.