

Curriculum overview:

Students will complete two units of Formal Art Education during Year 8 at Swanlea.

The first Unit is an exploration of Still Life entitled 'Objects & Viewpoints' in which students better understand perspective, their surroundings and Primary Observational skills. In this unit pupils explore various drawing skills, covering techniques including: using viewfinders, Art appreciation and analysis, colour mixing, acrylic work, graphite work, watercolour skills, Primary Source and Secondary Source drawing, whilst looking at objects from various viewpoints.

In the second unit, entitled 'Gargoyles', students will use a range of materials to explore how sculptors were influenced by creatures to create these works in stone. Pupils will be given the opportunity to explore various 3D making skills, covering techniques, including: using viewfinders, researching from various religious and art references and appreciation and analysis, colour mixing, acrylic work, graphite work, watercolour skills, Primary Source and Secondary Source drawing, while looking at masks from various cultures and the work of Ernst Haeckel and various illustrators.

Homework & assessments overview:

Homework should be for a minimum of 1hr, every two weeks. The homework is normally a skills based task which consolidates the learning from the lesson.

Often, there will be a research element to the homework to develop knowledge of Art History and to better understand the contextual part of the course and will be accompanied by a hand-out detailing the task.

Assessment is through teacher, self and peer assessment at two points during each unit. We assess using National Curriculum levelling based on Art specific criteria, such as using critical understanding to develop views and practice. We expect students to make at least 4 sub levels of progress in Year 8.

Useful websites:

www.studentartguide.com

www.getty.edu

www.artfactory.com

Practical tips / activities for parents to support learning at home:

- Encourage students to practise their drawing skills – as with any practical subject, 'practise makes perfect'.
- Take your child to galleries and museums to expand their mind and knowledge about the arts.
- Encourage your son/daughter to buy a 2B pencil to help them with their tonal work at home.