

Curriculum overview:

Students will complete two units of formal Art education during Year 9 at Swanlea.

In the first unit pupils explore Insects as the starting point for their work. They collect visual and other information by researching and studying the techniques, symbols and conventions of artists such as Joe McGown, Mike Libby and EA Seguy. They will explore in some scientific detail the workings of insects and fish and their biological structure in order to better understand their movement and how they can develop their studies. Students will make several 2D designs based on studies of insects and fish, review them and develop them into 3D relief structures.

In the second unit, students will be encouraged to develop a personal portfolio, similar to the way students work at GCSE. This is to give students the chance to determine their suitability for the subject as a GCSE Option choice.

Homework & assessments overview:

Homework should be for a minimum of 1-2hrs, every two weeks. The homework is normally a skills based task which consolidates the learning from the lesson, but will sometimes comprise of written tasks.

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, where necessary, 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 have made at least 2 full levels of progress by the end of Year 9 (based on internal data from the start of Year 7).

Useful websites:

www.studentartguide.com

www.getty.edu

www.artyfactory.com

www.saatchigallery.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 and/ or a set of watercolour to help them with their tonal work at home.
- Encourage your child to talk about their Art work. Ask to see their sketchbooks to promote confidence in the subject.