

APPOINTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY & ART SUBJECT LEADER

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Leadership

The department includes Art and Photography. The successful candidate is likely to be a strong classroom practitioner in either Photography or Art but experience of teaching or leading photography is beneficial.

Our deliberate way of working has developed a very strong group of middle leaders at Stratford who have responded very well to our blend of autonomy and accountability. This includes fortnightly breakfast meetings, timetabled group meetings for middle leaders and regular presentations to SLT. As a leader, you will find a positive working environment supported by peers, Lead Practitioners and members of SLT. The school is 'well led by many'. We will help you develop as a leader.

We look forward to welcoming an enthusiastic, well-qualified colleague, who will help shape the future curriculum and manage high quality daily experiences for our students, working with a small friendly team to build on established strengths and contribute to the continuing success of the department and school.

Curriculum

The Department's approach to teaching and learning:

We aim to offer our students a broad-based experience at all key stages. We hope they will leave us at the end of whichever key stage having gained a better understanding of the world around them and developed further their own imagination and creative impulses!

Photography is a well-established subject and is taught as a standalone subject. Art is also taught as a discreet standalone subject. At KS4 and 5 some students opt to study both. Currently Photography is the more populous subject with 5 classes in photography and 3 art across year 9, 3 classes of photography and 2 of art in year 10 and two classes of each in year 11.

Key Stage 3

Across the two-week timetable, Year 7 & 8 students each receive three 1hr lessons of Art. We have a programme of study which encompasses 2D and 3D experiences as well as looking at Art from a variety of western and non-western cultures. In Year 7 we cover the formal elements and move to a more thematic approach in Year 8. We have evolved our use of AFL but continue to strive to create confident, independent learners and thinkers. Students each have their own sketchbook. Homework assignments for each year group are set at the start of each half term. We have an Art club which runs each week and is ever popular.

Students do not currently have any direct photography lessons in KS3.

Key Stage 4

We have a three-year KS4- we use Year 9 as a 'foundation' year where we establish the skills required to flourish once we 'bank' the coursework completed in Year's 10 & 11.

Art: We follow the AQA Fine Art GCSE Art & Design course We have established popular and successful courses which have led to much student success in recent years. Students receive four 1hr periods a fortnight for each subject. Although there is a bias to drawing and painting, we incorporate various print making processes and more model making into the course. Of course, use of sketchbooks and personal responses through final outcomes are the essential ingredients to this course.

Photography: Also follows the AQA Art & Design qualification for GCSE Photography. The photography course which was established over 10yrs ago encompasses darkroom and digital photography. The facilities and equipment are of a very high standard and allow students to flourish in this popular subject. We are keen for our photography students to explore use of 'fine art' techniques to develop enhance their photographic personal responses. A mainstay of the course is the annual Year 11 Art trip to Tate Modern to coincide with the start of their 40% exam. We have afterschool coursework clubs which are well attended.

Key Stage 5

We deliver Edexcel A-Level Art & Design - Fine Art and AQA A Level Art & Design - Photography. For both qualifications the courses allow our students to develop their understanding and awareness of Art and Photography through a range of experiences based around 2D & 3D opportunities. Students receive ten 1hr periods a fortnight for each subject.

Opportunities to see Art and Photography beyond the confines of the classroom play an important part of the course as is visiting outside venues for ideas and inspiration. Students are encouraged to work independently and utilise the Art Department whenever possible. The outgoing post holder has recently established a joint A-Level Art/Photography trip to Barcelona. Furthering the opportunities for cultural capital for both courses is something the new post holder may like to explore...

Facilities

The Art Department is contained in the ground floor teaching corridor coming off reception and has five large classrooms, all with computers and an interactive white board. Within the photography classroom there is an adjoining dark room.

All teaching staff have their own teaching area and there is a large resource base where materials and work are stored along with office space.

Staff

The department currently consists of 6 staff – a Subject Leader, 4 other teaching members and a dedicated Art & Photography Technician.

We work well as a department and are supportive of each other. We utilise each other's strengths and this is a positive contributor to the ongoing improvement seen in Photography and Art

Extra-Curricular

Most lunch times and after school the Photography and Art suites are open for students to attend and work on their coursework.

We look forward to welcoming an enthusiastic, well-qualified colleague, who will help shape the future curriculum and manage high quality daily experiences for our students, working with a small friendly team to build on established strengths and contribute to the continuing success of the department and school.

This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to develop their career. We look forward to receiving your application.

Adam Hodgkinson, Assistant Headteacher

March 2026