



LOUGHBOROUGH
Amherst School

ART, CRAFT, DESIGN AND TEXTILES – November 2021

A Studio with a View

We have had an exciting and busy start to the academic year in Art at Loughborough Amherst School. We have seen the opening of our new, bigger, brighter Sixth Form studio in the main block. Our existing A-Level students and our new Year 12 students, wasted no time in making their own dedicated space comfortable and personalised. They are seeing a real benefit in being able to work on their art in their Study periods, as well as having their inspiration, plans and ideas surrounding them while they work.

“I’m loving having so much more space and being able to just carry on with my work whenever I want to.” – Sophie, Deputy Head Prefect, Year 13



Mrs H Jephcote

We are delighted to introduce our new Art staff member Mrs Jephcote. She has certainly ‘hit the ground running’ meeting all of Years 6 to 13 in Art and learning many names. Her bright and enthusiastic approach to learning at Key Stages 2 and 3 has pushed the lower school to stretch their abilities in drawing and challenging new media.



LAS Prep Art News

In our Reception class, we have a dedicated art wall and creation station in the classroom that can be accessed all the time.



Every half term we have an artist that we study and this half term's study has been of Japanese Artists Yayoi Kusuma, whose work on Pumpkins and Infinity Rooms (mirrors light rooms) feel very Autumnal.

Art Club in Prep

The children joining Mrs Olaleye in Art club have been investigating natural form art works with found forms in September and Poppies in November to mark Remembrance Day.



Art Day

In the Senior school, we are so happy to be working more closely with our own Reception Class teacher, Mrs Olaleye, who has a background in Arts and Textiles. Mrs Olaleye organised an Art Day that spanned all Year Groups in the Prep School, supported in new techniques with our Senior School.

Inspired by the work of Delitia Martin, pupils throughout the Pre-Preparatory and Upper-Preparatory School enjoyed exploring their own personal story and experimenting with pattern and colour through new techniques such as wax resist, layering compositions and colour inks.



Links with Prep

Throughout the year Head of Art, Ms Mitchell, will be supporting, offering advice, sharing resources and developing new skills in Art, Textiles and Printmaking to the Preparatory Staff, alongside Mrs Olaleye as our Prep Art Coordinator and liaison.

The Big Draw October

October saw the start of the 'Big Draw' which takes place annually. We began the initiative with members of the public, during the Open Morning event. This then continued with the Preparatory and Senior Schools working in their Houses to complete the drawing. The theme for the year was 'make a change' encouraging everyone to consider how even their small actions can impact the world in a big way. The cloisters were full of pupils working together during the assemblies. We particularly enjoyed seeing pupils sheltering from the rain, doodling in Cloisters at break and lunch.



Xmas4Schools

Mrs Jephcote has also introduced Xmas4Schools Art competition, in which all students in Years 6 and 7 completed work in class whilst all other year groups were offered the opportunity as a fun extra-curricular activity. The students have designed a Christmas image to be transformed into a lovely gift for relatives and friends. We have raised a fantastic **£224** in proceeds, which has been donated to our school charity **Hope for Cancer**.

Thank you to all parents and pupils in involved, this would not have been possible without your support and generosity. We think the gifts look wonderful, and we hope you and your families enjoy such a lovely keepsake.



Photography Club

This year we have started the Photography lunchtime club, in which we have a dedicated following from Year 7 to Year 13. The students have been working together and also individually, on new skills such as lighting, framing and composition. More recently they have been tasked with using digital software, including photoshop to help create a display from our Big Draw artwork.



ISA Art Regional Competition and National Finals.

Many congratulations to Naomi for her achievement of the Runner Up place in KS5 Textiles for the ISA Art and Design Midlands competition. Naomi is currently studying Fashion Marketing and publicity in Manchester this year.



Alice's entry for KS4 Textiles 'Seascapes' automatically qualifies for the National Final of the ISA Art and Design Awards after winning First Place in the regional Midlands round. We are still waiting for the final standings, but we wish Alice all the best of luck.



Currently in Art lessons

Year 6 have been exploring their theme of Egyptians in Art with Hieroglyph scratch art and paper manipulation, ready to make their Pharaohs' decorative collars.

Year 7's introduction to Senior School Art has centred on the Visual Elements through the examination of Bugs. So far, they have concentrated on line, tone and pattern, moving into printing methods and collage.

Year 8 pupils have been taking their time looking at close observational skills and grid drawing of facial features. They have been working hard refining their skills in proportion and shape, ready for a self-portrait drawing.

Year 9 have investigated the artist Vic Lees and his Corona Diary. This is forming the visual communications project on the students experience of lockdown and how art can be used as a social tool to support each other.

To support our new and existing GCSE Art and Textiles students, Monday after school support is up and running again. Year 10 have started their GCSE with some refinement of traditional skills in Still Life before experimenting with new exciting techniques and methods such as Etching, negative space, silk painting, plus many more.



A-Level students enjoyed a Sixth Form trip to London as a bonding and social event. This included some time in the National Gallery. They found the experience valuable to see the brush marks, depth of colour of the paint and fine detail, which is not always visible online or in books. Year 12 are experimenting with a carousel akin to an Art Foundation course, which focuses on skills and techniques before beginning their personal portfolios.