

Creative Arts



The Creative Arts department at Garstang Community Academy exists to provide our students with the opportunity to expand their cultural knowledge, develop practical skills and nurture a love of the arts which will be lifelong. As such, our curriculum is ambitious, diverse and broad and focuses on the practical application of skills learned. It focuses on developing resilient creative artists who have the confidence to share their talents with others and who are increasingly independent learners.

Creative Arts lessons aim to develop the skills of students from their own starting points prior to year 7, which we recognise can be very diverse in Creative Arts subjects. As such, our curriculum is appropriately differentiated in order to provide challenge for all students, regardless of their own artistic skills and prior experience. Our curriculum provides an opportunity for students to explore a range of creative artists and styles and to develop their own musical, dramatic and artistic skills, developing their own cultural capital and knowledge of the wider world. Lessons are fundamentally built on the practical application of learned concepts, for example learning to sing and play instruments in music, creating work using a range of media in art and devising original theatre in drama. Students explore the great composers, artists and dramatic practitioners that have shaped the arts across the centuries and use this knowledge to develop their understanding of modern creative artists.

Students learn about a range of artists and work which challenges them and is possibly outside their usual choice, including work from other cultures and parts of the world, developing their cultural capital and knowledge of the wider world.

Schemes of learning are structured to allow for a progressive development of skills and knowledge and regular review and consolidation of prior learning. Learning is intended to provide a solid foundation for study at Key Stage 4 and beyond, but also to develop a wider love of the arts that will be life-long and go beyond academic study. Indeed, Creative Arts lessons enable students to develop skills that will be invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people and being able to work as part of a successful team are skills that are a fundamental part of arts education. Reading is embedded in our curriculum through script work, research and the development of broader subject knowledge.

Creative Arts classrooms strive to be stimulating and nurturing, providing a safe space for students to express themselves. We recognise the value of the arts in enabling students to understand their own and others' feelings; helping to maintain their mental health and well-being. Lessons also promote an independence of learning and independence; allowing students to make their own creative decisions when composing, devising and creating art.

It is our intention that we create young adults who have an interest in the arts that will continue beyond year 11- either as a potential future career or as a source of enjoyment that will be ongoing. As such, we strive to leave our students with the skills to pursue the arts further, the knowledge of what opportunities are available to them within the arts and a passion for creativity that they will carry with them into their future.