RGS
NEWCASTLE

INTRODUCTION TO

ART

at RGS















The Art Department at RGS is an inspiring, vibrant and exceptionally well-resourced environment.

Art is a popular and successful subject, offering a rich opportunity for those captivated by the visual world to explore and develop their creative voice.

Under the expert guidance of our dedicated staff, students consistently achieve outstanding results in public exams, as well as benefitting from our extensive creative co-curricular activities.

YEAR 7 TO GCSE

All students study Art in Years 7 and Year 8.

It is an optional subject in Year 9. Most students who choose Art in Year 9 will typically go on to study GCSE Art in Years 10 and 11.

A-LEVEL

A-Level Art and (from September 2026) A-Level Photography is offered at RGS Sixth Form.



OUR PHILOSOPY

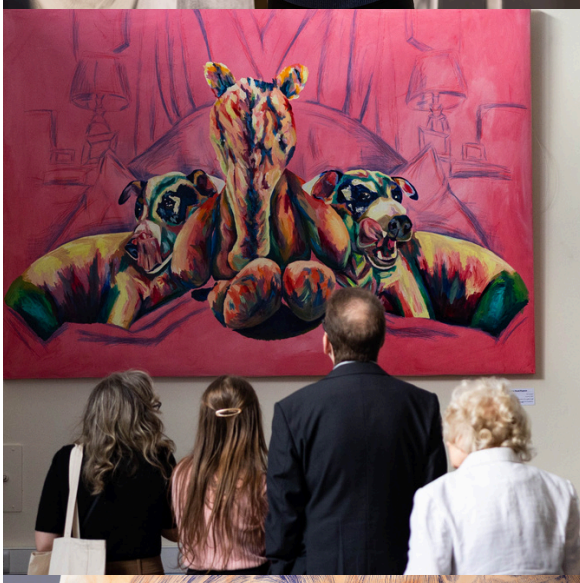
At RGS students are encouraged to produce highly personal work and written responses. Our team of art teachers is both highly skilled and diversely accomplished.

They are committed to nurturing students' practical abilities and techniques across a wide range of media - from painting and drawing to textiles, installations and digital design. Alongside this, students deepen their understanding of art theory and history.

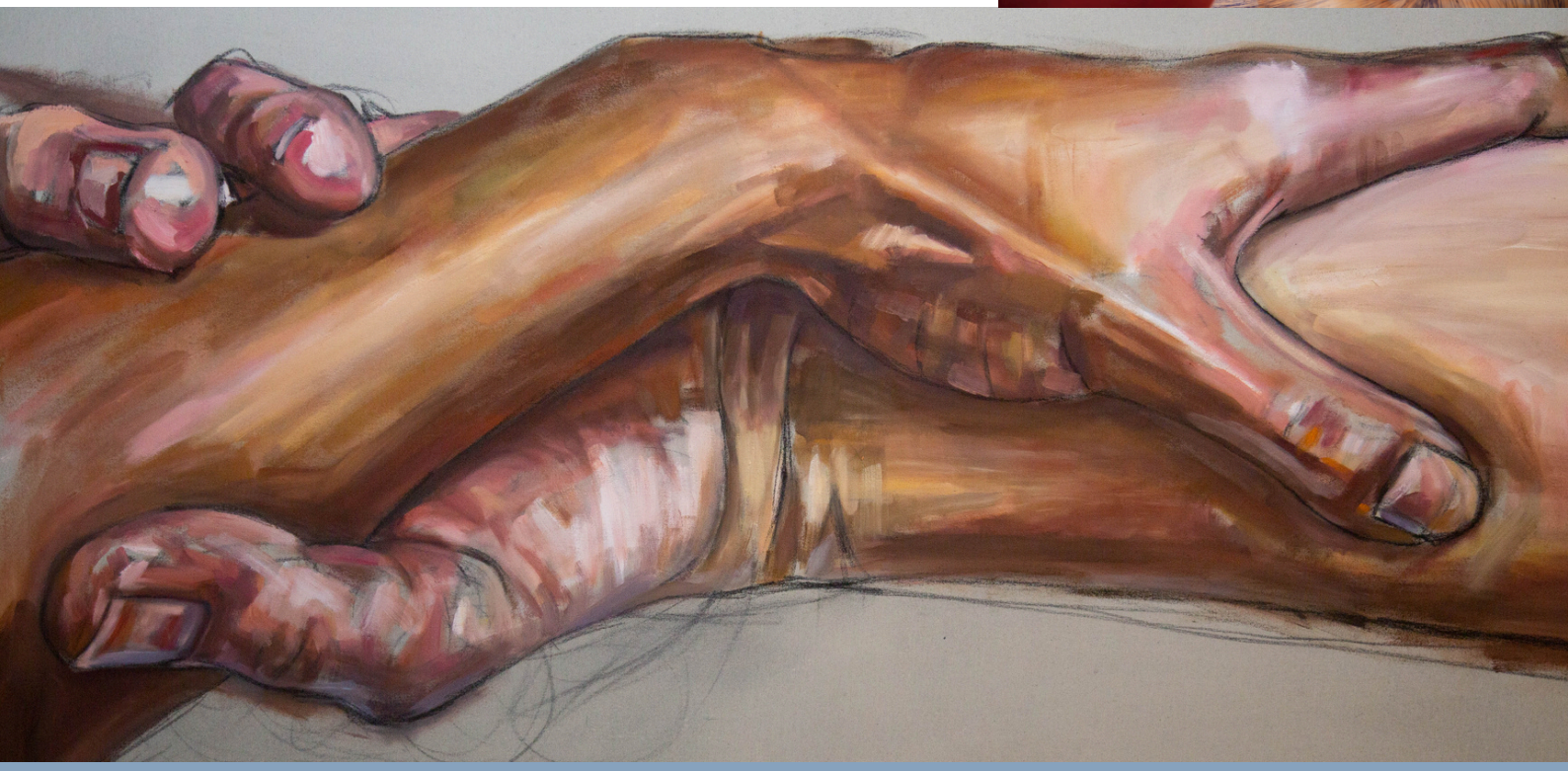
Students are actively encouraged to initiate their own projects through a research-led approach. It is often when personal intellectual curiosity is expressed visually that the most exceptional work emerges.

Our approach to teaching and learning fosters imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, keen observation and analytical skills. These qualities are developed in practical contexts, leading to a deeper appreciation of the role of the Arts in human history.













OUR RESOURCES

The RGS Art Department boasts an impressive array of studios and specialist facilities. These include a printmaking room with presses, a digital photography space, a darkroom for black and white processing, a dedicated IT suite, film-making equipment and a well-stocked library.

All of our art resources are housed within architecturally stimulating and creatively inspiring spaces. Students frequently work in the Art Department outside of lesson times, supported by supervised opening hours that offer maximum creative flexibility.

Compared to other centres nationally, we exceed expectations in both student numbers and examination results at GCSE and A-Level.



YEAR 7 TO YEAR 11

Art in the lower senior school is expressive, analytical and fun. Studio activity regularly extends learning beyond the specification, often touching on GCSE themes and techniques.

Practical exercises in drawing, painting, collage, printing, 3D and photography build confidence, valuable experience and a broad skill set. Students' work is proudly displayed throughout the school, celebrating their achievements and encouraging further creativity.

The first two years of teaching are enriched by visits to local galleries. Recent trips have included Baltic Creative Careers, artist-led workshops, exhibitions at the Hatton Gallery and participation in the ARTiculate project.

In collaboration with the English Department, students produce visual or literary responses to artworks. These outcomes blend visual and literacy skills and may take the form of illustration, creative writing, drama, film or animation. Workshops are held both in school and at the gallery.





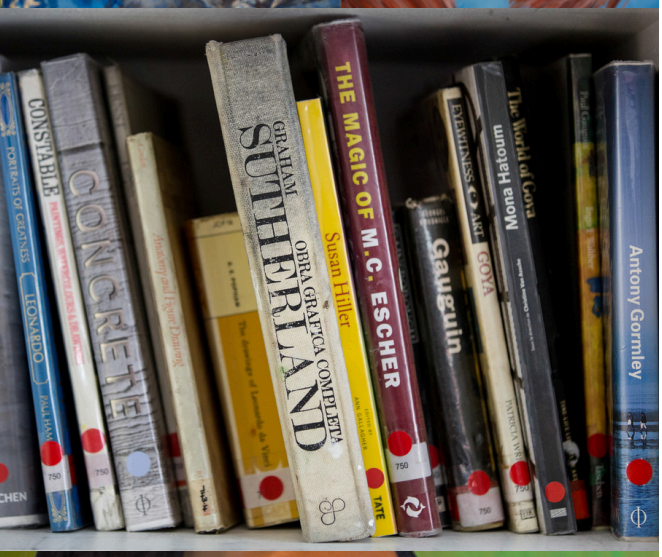














A-LEVEL

Studying Art at A-Level is a lifestyle choice that goes far beyond examination requirements. The course offers a unique and enriching experience, making a meaningful contribution to each student's CV.

Students are expected to direct their work according to personal interests and motivations. Learning is self-led, with generous deadlines and encouragement to pursue ambitious projects within a dedicated sixth form studio.

A wide range of techniques and processes are available, allowing for a bespoke programme tailored to each student.

Students undertake life class which provide a serious and sophisticated forum for young artists to engage with traditional disciplines. These sessions support our aim to produce great art.

Imagination, creativity, lateral thinking and expressive activity are all prized qualities. These are nurtured through an intellectually demanding programme that includes art history, regular critiques and workshops with external institutions.

Together, these elements provide a rich source of inspiration and reference.

CO-CURRICULAR

Our curriculum and co-curricular opportunities are designed to appeal to the diverse range of students in our care. Art invites students to explore unknown territories, discover passions and develop confidence in their ability to create, take risks and solve problems.

The Art Department hosts a wide range of co-curricular activities, open to GCSE and A-Level students as well as those simply looking to use their time creatively.

Six student-led lunchtime clubs include:

- Fashion
- ArcSoc
- Sewing
- Ceramics
- Photography
- Digital Arts

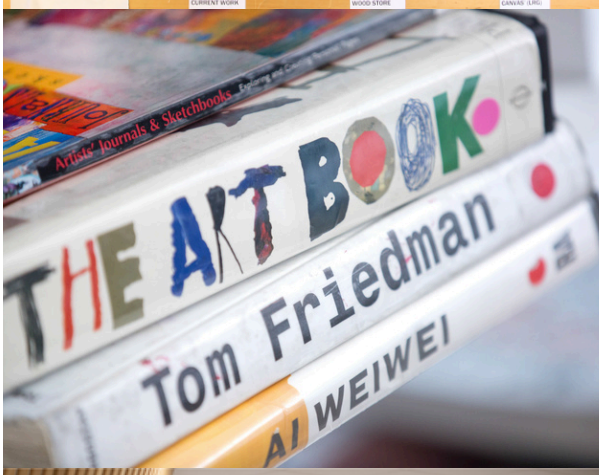
OPENStudio and BlackBookClub provide dedicated time for GCSE students to work in their studio space, supported by sixth form artists. These sessions offer valuable opportunities for reflection, peer feedback and creative development.

ArcSoc is open to GCSE and Sixth Form students interested in architecture and the built environment. Weekly activities include presentations, professional talks, alumni visits and practical workshops.

Complementary Studies Courses in Life Class, Photography and Ceramics are open to all Year 12 students. These sessions offer a broad range of skills and allow pupils to explore their creative potential in depth.











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From our students' first experience with Art all the way through to Year 13, creativity flourishes at RGS in a vibrant and inspiring environment.

We look forward to welcoming you to explore your creativity at RGS.

If you would like further information about Artat RGS please contact Mr Graham Mason, Head of Art via g.mason@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

