

31 January 2025



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

Barnsley Road, Doncaster
DN5 7UB
01302 783939

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a great week. As usual, I have provided a number of updates followed by a Curriculum Spotlight on our Art and Photography Faculty.

Creating Futures reports

Creating Futures 1 reports have been sent home today for all students in Y7-10 and Y12. Students in Y11 and Y13 received their CF1 reports before Christmas. We hope the CF reports are used to inform discussions with your son/daughter on their effort and progress.

Y10 revision

We recently held a very popular and successful revision strategies evening aimed at Y11 students and their parents. We have been delighted by the number of students in Y10 also asking how they can also access these resources to support their independent study. These can be found on the school website via the link below, and are suitable for all students in KS4 [Ridgewood School - KS4 Revision](#)

Y11 Macbeth performance

On Wednesday, our Y11 students were fortunate enough to have a professional theatre company in school performing Macbeth. This was a fantastic experience, and is excellent preparation for the upcoming second round of mock exams.

Post 16 Student Finance and Apprenticeship Evening

On Tuesday evening, we were very pleased to welcome over 80 families to our Sixth Form Student Finance and Apprenticeship evening. Parents heard from expert guest speakers, supporting all students to think about their next steps for when they finish Y13. If students or parents have any questions following this evening, please send them via the 'contact us' facility on the school website, for the attention of the P16 learning mentor team.

The resources from the evening are available here: [Ridgewood School - Student Support](#)

Curriculum Spotlight – Art and Photography Faculty

The Art and Photography Faculty endeavours to inspire all students by teaching them Art is accessible to everyone. Our lessons are designed to provide a broad overview of Art and Design, enriching and expanding students' understanding of what Art is and can be. We encourage open discussion, critical reflection on both others' work and their own, as well as the development of methods and techniques to strengthen their own outcomes.

Our curriculum draws on the work of a diverse range of practitioners, spanning ancient cultures to contemporary abstract practices, encouraging the imagination of those we are privileged to teach. All members of staff are practising artists, with expertise ranging from photography, digital illustration, and design to painting and sculpture. We channel our dedication to the subject into our teaching and an extensive enrichment programme offered three nights a week.



'Prepare for the road ahead'

Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

At Key Stage Three, all year groups explore the core areas of Art and Design: Colour and Pattern, Line and Tone, and Shape and Form. Through this, we study the work of others, experiment with materials, ideas, and techniques, and create final pieces. This structure reflects an abridged version of the assessment objectives for GCSE and A-Level Art and Design, preparing students for 'The *Creative Road Ahead!*'

In Year 7, students explore the work of Patrick Caulfield and Gustav Klimt, focusing on colour, pattern, and symbolism to create a personal narrative. Students then experiment with printing techniques, including press printing, collagraphs, and mono prints, developed from observed drawings. For the final project of the year, students study Henry Moore's war shelter drawings and Anselm Kiefer's emotive multimedia paintings, exploring shape, form, and how to create an emotional expression through various media.

In Year 8, students explore the theme of The Everyday, influenced by Pop Art. They begin with an overview of Pop Art, including observed drawings and experiments with key artists as influence. The work of Wayne Thiebaud, whose style can be attributed to Pop Art, is explored, leading to 3D work like paper craft and clay sculpture. Students then create larger cardboard sculptures, both individually and collaboratively.

In Year 9, students explore the theme of Identity through Art and Design. They investigate Dadaism and On Kawara's use of typography to explore their existence through compositions using adjectives. Inspired by Charlotte Caron's exploration of human nature, students create realistic portraits that develop into abstract pieces. To end Key Stage 3, students imagine their future selves, creating a narrative artwork about their hopes and aspirations, inspired by Grayson Perry's *The Vanity of Small Differences*.

GCSE Art, Craft, and Design follows the Edexcel Pearson syllabus. Students participate in teacher-led lessons to build confidence, refine techniques, and build on Key Stage 3 learning. They work on running themes and open titles, allowing full autonomy in their investigations, with personalised 1:1 guidance from teachers each lesson. In Year 11, students receive their exam paper in January and are supported throughout their personal journey to complete this part of the qualification by Easter.

In the sixth form, the Art Department offers both Art and Design and Photography at A level. The Photography course focuses on core skills, along with broad experimentation with themes and techniques. The Art course encourages students to rethink their understanding of art through various experiments and 'mini-briefs.' In Year 13, students in both subjects work on self-directed personal projects, with ongoing support from staff.

If you have any queries about the Art curriculum, please do not hesitate to use the 'contact us' facility on the school website, for the attention of Mr Houseman, Curriculum Leader - Art.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Bridge
Associate Headteacher