



## **SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (ACADEMY)**

### **SCHOOL AIMS**

South Wilts is a progressive grammar school for girls which aims to maintain high academic standards and cultural achievement within a caring environment. We seek to encourage responsibility and personal fulfilment so that students attain their maximum potential. The School is dynamic and works with the community to prepare its students for life-long learning and adult independence.

### **ARTS POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

Arts education at SWGS is an entitlement for all students both within the formal curriculum and through extra-curricular and community activities. All students have access to a wide range of arts experiences both as individual disciplines and collaborative ventures.

#### **Aims**

- To develop young people and adults as imaginative, creative beings with a lifelong interest in the arts;
- To develop skills and confidence in using the languages of the arts to communicate ideas about, and understanding of, the world; develop skills for life and living including citizenship; develop awareness and appreciation of the rich cultural diversity of art;
- To develop understanding of a variety of media and processes in order to record, communicate and express ideas and feelings in many different ways;
- To extend the opportunities for students to develop a range of artistic approaches through the use of ICT as a medium for expression, thus enhancing the learning process;
- To respond to the needs of our gifted and talented students by developing the opportunities available for extended learning in the Arts;
- To provide opportunities for the development of the transferable skills that arises from a success in the arts.

#### **Delivery**

At KS3 all National Curriculum subjects are studied, including in addition, Drama and Dance. KS4 options include Art, Drama, English Literature and Music whilst KS5 students are able to study Art & Design, English Literature, Communication and Culture, History of Art, Music and Drama and Theatre Studies. The latter three form part of the collaboration with Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School. All subjects of art, music and drama are taught by specialist teachers in classroom resourced for that purpose.

Students are encouraged to share their expertise at a range of concerts or exhibitions during the course of the year and cross curricular activities occur on a regular basis, whole school productions being one such example where the use of all genres of the arts is required.

Opportunities exist for students to experience art forms through visits to the theatre, concerts and art galleries in addition to master classes and workshops from theatre companies, authors and musicians. Staff participate in the Arts for instance singing in the choir or performing as musicians. Students in art are encouraged to attend classes outside of normal timetabled time, including photography and life-drawing evening classes.

#### **Development**

Staff are encouraged to attend appropriate courses to update and review their knowledge base. The local community are encouraged to participate in events such as the annual Carol Service. The area of the Arts is well resourced. A purpose built music block was completed in November 2006 with two music rooms, one of which has a suite of computers equipped with music software. There are eight practice rooms and two ensemble rooms. The art department has four specialist class rooms and the teaching of drama is timetabled into either a drama studio or a theatre

equipped with specialist lighting sound and raked seating. Specialist lighting and sound is also available in the main hall, which is used for whole school productions.

ICT plays an increasingly important role in arts education including graphic design, the use of image manipulation packages, music technology, lighting design and control and video production.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

The KS4 and KS5 option process is open and subject groupings are determined by the manner in which students opt. It is possible for a student at KS4 to study three art subjects to GCSE and at KS5 a student to choose four AS subjects from those listed above.

There is a wide range of extra curricular opportunities, which are available to all students. These range from the junior, senior and A Cappella choirs, the junior and senior orchestra, whole school productions, jointly run productions with Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School, to productions instigated led and organised by students. Sixth form students are given positions of responsibility in the arts, including the roles of drama and music and art prefects. Art clubs for all key stages are run by staff and students.

There is a wide range of peripatetic music teachers available who teach at the school. In 2013-14 375 students received peripatetic music lessons. Disadvantaged students are able to apply for a music tuition subsidy.

Support is available to assist with the funding of lessons for those students studying music at GCSE, when needed. A' level music students receive lessons for one instrument funded by the school. The school also takes part in the Wiltshire Assisted Purchase Instrument Scheme.

### **Cultural Diversity**

Students are given opportunities to study arts forms from around the world. As a school accredited with the International School Award subjects have taken on an international dimension. In art at KS3 students have the opportunity to study and create masks from around the world. At KS4 students are also given the opportunity to experiment with a variety of drawing, printing and painting techniques inspired by Asian culture. Students are also given the opportunity to experiment with batik design. In music students explore the music of Africa and relate the music to its culture and to the concept of fusion. Students listen, research, look at instruments, perform, improvise and evaluate their performances. Students also study American blues and research composers from other countries. In drama students perform Indian dance / drama / American theatre and coursework comparison based on text from a different genre / culture.

### **Monitoring and assessment**

Governors are regularly updated of the activities undertaken by all of the departments. This occurs through departmental visits by members of the curriculum committee, the Headteacher's report to governors, information provided in the school newsletters and on the school web site. All departments are reviewed regularly on an annual basis as part of the whole school departmental review process.

### **Health and Safety**

All staff are trained and updated in the relevant health and safety procedures as outlined in the school's health and safety policy statement. Staff should comply with the school guidelines when organising trips and visits. Staff have received specialist training relating to lighting, sound and scaffolding.

### **Review**

The Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body and the Head teacher will review this policy every three years and update, modify or replace it as it considers necessary.