

BISHOP'S HATFIELD GIRLS' SCHOOL

THE ARTS POLICY

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| Date of last review: | Summer Term 2013 |
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| Date of next review: | Summer Term 2016 |
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| School Based Policy |
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Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Arts Policy

'We see our school as a community which recognizes and values individual worth, promotes achievement and actively encourages learning in a supportive environment.'

BHGS School Prospectus 2009

Introduction

Arts education at Bishop's 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. The arts play a key role in promoting developments in teaching and learning across the curriculum.

We work with our local community and the wider community in pursuance of these aims by collaborating with other schools, community groups, regional universities, professional artists and arts organizations to forge creative partnerships.

As a community school we offer opportunities in the arts to all young people and facilities for adults in our catchment area and celebrate achievement.

Aims

Our work is based on the belief that the artist is in everyone and aims to:

- develop the full variety of human intelligence;
- develop the capacity for creative thought and action;
- appreciate the value of feeling and sensibility in the Arts;
- develop an understanding of the Arts as a language and a vehicle for communication;
- develop physical, perceptual, aural, oral, visual, and spatial skills;
- explore values, develop critical skills and aesthetic appreciation;
- develop personal and social skills through individual and collaborative work;
- develop an understanding of the value of historical context and cultural diversity;
- have access to the work of contemporary professional artists;
- develop confidence in the validity of their own creative work;
- develop an awareness of the relationships between the Arts and to foster
- co-operation;
- offer opportunities for enrichment through activities both within and outside the classroom environment;

- provide appropriate resources for individuals and groups to enhance their skills through the exploration of artistic media;
- develop the understanding of the Arts and its place within the community;
- develop young people and adults as imaginative, creative beings with a lifelong interest in the arts;
- develop skills and confidence in using the languages of the arts to communicate ideas about, and understanding of, their world;
- develop skills for life and living including citizenship;
- develop awareness and appreciation of the rich cultural diversity of the Arts.

In pursuance of these aims we aim to provide all young people with opportunities to:

- experience a broad range of the arts activities, both within the curriculum and beyond;
- foster creativity, skill and talent, whether as a performer or audience member;
- experience a broad range of performance and exhibition possibilities throughout the year in a variety of arts forms;
- experience a range of high quality artistic experiences as members of a new generation of artistically literate audience members;
- participate in a range of workshops provided by professional artists;
- promote a sense of parity of value between tradition and innovation;
- explore ever changing styles and technologies within the Arts;
- experience professional performances and develop an appreciation of the skills demonstrated for professional standard;
- create and own work within the Arts in order to establish independent learning as part of a shared group culture;
- obtain guidance and support if wishing to explore the Arts post 16.

We aim to nurture and develop the expertise of our staff to identify and share best practice and to make our expertise and resources available to our community.

Practice

Staff

Staff in Art, Dance, Drama and Music are all specialists and continue to develop and practice their skills in an ever evolving artistic medium.

All staff are facilitators of learning with the responsibility of providing both challenge and guidance to ensure all pupils progress within the Arts.

There is a dedicated arts technician and a community link officer who assist in delivery of Dance activities with our feeder schools.

Many other staff participate in arts activities for instance leading a choir or performing in a semi-professional capacity. Many non-specialists run clubs and activities.

We employ a wide range of staff in addition to permanent teaching staff for specific purposes for instance musical instrument tuition. Many are professional artists.

Arts Management

The Arts management structure features a Curriculum Leader for Creative Arts: Dance, Drama, Music and PE and a Curriculum Leader for Design Technology who oversees the Subject Leader for Art. Each faculty is line managed and meetings take place on a regular programme during each term. Curriculum Leaders meetings occur every half term and involve heads of faculty and members of the Senior Leadership Team. Information is presented and available for governors through School Improvement Plans, that are reviewed termly throughout the year and through other school documentation such as Curriculum Reports to Governors.

The Curriculum

KS3

All students study Art, Music, Drama and Dance at KS3 as separate subjects. They study literature and the media in English and explore technical skills through Design Technology. Lessons vary in length and frequency in relation to the curriculum structure for each year group, Art and Music are taught weekly across all years, Drama and Dance are taught weekly in Year 7 and on a carousel system for Years 8 and 9.

There are also major events which cross timetable boundaries such as in school professional theatre company visits, Carol Services and visits to professional arenas such as galleries and theatres.

KS4

All students have an opportunity to opt for an Arts or Design Technology subject to be taken to GCSE, many will take more than one subject that can be selected from different blocks. All students study literature and media in English. Each GCSE option has three 50 minute lessons each week - a double lesson and a single lesson.

16+

We offer courses in Art (endorsed for Fine Art and Art Textiles), Music, Drama, English Literature and Media Studies all of which are delivered on site. Further opportunities exist through the Welwyn Hatfield Consortium; some of the subjects offered include Performing Arts BTEC and Music Technology.

Each AS or A2 option has five hours a week and students take two, three or four subjects often combining Arts and Sciences for instance.

ICT

ICT plays an increasingly important role in arts education including graphic design, music technology, lighting design and control, video production and use and development of a virtual learning environment.

Whole school developments

The Arts play an increasingly important role in whole school developments in teaching and learning and in staff development. There is an increasing number of cross-curricular activities involving the Arts, particularly between Drama and Humanities, and the use of the Media is continuing to increase across subject areas e.g. Who Do We Think We Are Week.

Extra-Curricular

Bishop's offers an extensive and varied extra-curricular life. There has been significant promotion of the Creative Arts through annual Showcase evenings and many links have been established within Art and Music to regional Universities that result in extra-curricular workshops and concerts.

Students are offered opportunities for tuition and coaching, to join clubs and performance groups and to enhance or develop work done in the formal curriculum.

In Art and Design: art club, photography and life-drawing evening classes; extension classes after school. Annual exhibitions of students' work and Summer School Masterclasses.

In Music: instrumental tuition, orchestra, choir and rock band groups exist.

In Drama: Drama Clubs currently exist for Year 7 and Seniors and developments are taking place to create a Performance Society led by a group of senior students.

In Dance: there are both Junior and Senior Dance Clubs that involve coaching from specialist teachers and sixth formers within the school. Accelerated learning workshops for the gifted and talented in Key Stage 3 and with local Year 5 & 6 pupils from some feeder schools also take place.

Coaching takes place across all subject areas for progression in GCSE, AS and A2 examination.

The English Department in liaison with the Arts faculties organizes a variety of activities including a film & media club and a public speaking group.

There is a large range of trips to the theatre, to concerts, to exhibitions, galleries and museums.

Working with the Community.

Artists and Arts Organisations

We have an annual visit by a writer who meets with Key Stage 3 students in conjunction with Library lessons within English.

We work with professional artists such as musicians and theatre groups.

We have good links to universities both within Music and Art each of which leads to presentation to an audience or a viewing of the work.

Community Education

The community is an integral part of the Arts at Bishop's, performances and displays of work provide the opportunity to celebrate success and share with peers, parents and other members of the wider community.

Activities with gifted and talented pupils from feeder schools provide direct links across all Key Stages.

Community arts groups use the school as a performance venue: we also provide rehearsal space, equipment loan and technical support.

Facilities

These include:

- one large and one smaller music room that are equipped with ICT and three practice rooms;
- one Drama Studio equipped with lighting and sound equipment;
- two performance spaces for Dance – the Hall and Gym;
- a number of Art and Technology rooms with resources including a kiln;
- three specialist ICT rooms with availability as a teaching space for all subjects.

Future Plans

Future plans include:

Further refinement of the VLE for remote teaching access.

Continued development of cross-curricular links and enhanced links between the Creative Arts and Technology faculties.

Strengthening of partnerships within the Welwyn Hatfield Consortium; sharing good practice and presenting pupil work in festivals or displays.

