



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

ART AWARDS

Art at Magdalen College School is vibrant, diverse and fun. All pupils are given the opportunity to discover and stimulate their creative ability and are taught in small groups by Art specialists in an atmosphere that is professional, friendly and relaxed.

The Art School is situated along the length of the top floor of the Michael Peagram Building. It consists of four studios that have floor-to-ceiling windows and skylights that give us north light for optimal observational and colour work. There are studios designed for a wide range of two and three-dimensional work. These are supported by a computer suite (with both Macs and PCs) and a well-equipped photographic darkroom. Our students have the very best facilities to pursue any artistic activity they wish. As well as our own library, we are supported by an excellent Art and Design collection in the school's Sir Basil Blackwell Library.



Lower School artists are welcome to join the Art Club, which meets on a weekly basis, often to undertake collaborative projects. Recently, they successfully designed and built a large piece of metal public sculpture, which is now installed in the school grounds. There is also a weekly Life Drawing class (for sixth form artists); a Darkroom and Photography Club; and annual Drawing and Photography competitions with visiting judges and preview nights. The Art Society invites a guest speaker to address pupils – recently we were delighted to host famed painter Jenny Saville to talk about her work.



Art Scholars and Exhibition-holders also have their own group, which develops higher-profile projects over the course of a year while allowing the youngest Scholars to work alongside those in the Upper Sixth. They have recently designed celebratory artwork linked to the new Sixth Form Centre, and previously designed the colourful hoardings surrounding the building site. Finally, the department is always open to serious users, from 8am to 6pm every weekday, allowing pupils to come in and work on whatever they choose during breaks and lunchtimes.

An exhibition space runs the length of the department in which we display work as it is produced; artwork is also displayed around the school site. The art year culminates in the Summer Exhibition, open to friends and family, as well as the general public as part of the Oxford Festival of the Arts. Most year groups will experience a trip or workshop in and around Oxford each year; the department also takes older pupils to New York City every other year, as well as offering European trips more occasionally.





MCS offers Art Scholarships and Exhibitions to pupils entering the Lower Fourth and Lower Sixth. A Scholarship is worth £300 per year and an Exhibition is worth £200. (Recipients are also exempt from any materials charges they might have otherwise accrued in the department).

It is expected that all those awarded a Scholarship or Exhibition at 13+ will take GCSE Art, and awards are tenable for as long as the holder continues to study the subject.

How to apply

If a pupil would like to be considered for an award, he will be required to submit a portfolio which covers a range of processes and techniques. Work should have been done over the past two years. Enthusiasm, imagination and technical competence will all be considered, although candidates are judged on artistic potential as well as on previous attainment.



Pupils at 13+ must apply by **Friday 7th January**.

They must then submit their portfolios by 8.30am on **Wednesday 2nd March 2022**. Portfolios should contain 6-10 pieces of work, including at least one piece of work from direct observation; one piece from imagination; one piece based on a favourite artist's work; and anything else they might like to show us. The portfolios should then be collected between 4 and 5pm on Friday 4th March.

All members of the Art department teaching staff assess these and will select a 'short-list' of candidates who will be invited to attend the Scholarship Interview which is on **Friday 11th March 2022** for 13+ candidates. Candidates will be asked to complete a mini project at home (three hours) during the preceding weekend, to bring with them to interview. They will also have the opportunity to discuss their work and their particular artistic interests.