



# MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

## ART AWARDS (13+)

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 and friendly.

The Art Department 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, designed for a wide range of two and three-dimensional work. These are supported by a computer suite and a well-equipped photographic darkroom. The department also shares facilities with Design and Technology, which houses a kiln and spray-painting booth, as well as woodworking machinery. 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.



The department is open to serious users, outside of lessons, allowing pupils to come in and work on whatever they choose during breaks, lunchtimes or after school.



Lower School artists are welcome to join the Art Club, which meets on a weekly basis, often to undertake collaborative projects. There is also a Darkroom and Photography Club and annual drawing and photography competitions with visiting judges and preview nights. The Art Society invites guest speakers to address pupils – recently we were delighted to host Professor Samson Kambalu, who has secured the next commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.

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. The

Scholars recently designed a deck of playing cards which were sold to support the school's charities. The department benefits from an 'artist-in-residence' programme, which affords opportunities for award-holders to work in a professional setting, and exhibit locally, through our partnership with Magdalen Road Studios.

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 on an international trip every other year, as well as offering UK trips more occasionally.

MCS offers Art Scholarships and Exhibitions to pupils entering the Lower Fourth and Lower Sixth. A Scholarship is worth £200 per year and an Exhibition is worth £150. (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. 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

They must then submit their portfolios by 8.30am on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024** 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. We look forward to meeting them.