



# WADDES DON

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

### Department Information

We are looking to appoint an inspirational individual who will sustain and develop the strong reputation of the Art Department at Waddesdon.

This very well-resourced department, born out of the legacy of the school's previous Visual Arts Specialist Status, allows students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding from a broad range of subject choices including Art, Craft and Design, Graphic Communication and Photography. Students at GCSE follow a three-year curriculum starting in Year 9 which builds upon a comprehensive introduction to our Art and Design mastery programme taught at Key Stage 3. Significant numbers of students opt for our range of subjects at GCSE and A Level so that typically, we have six groups opting for GCSE Art, Graphics and Photography each year and around 100 students following courses in Years 12 and 13.

The department comprises five purpose-built studios, including three iMac suites, with industry-leading software such as Adobe Creative Suite, and three open-beamed and north light-facing studios. With the facilities and excellent equipment that we have, we are able to support most art disciplines, including clay, printmaking, painting and drawing and new media. We also have a multi-purpose room that acts as a photographic studio, used mainly for Sixth Formers, with various lighting, backdrops and black-out, and SLR cameras. Students print their photographic and graphic outcomes digitally in the department and this work is regularly displayed.

The team consists of five teachers and a technician, including the subject leader supported by an experienced second in department. The team work well together and are very experienced and highly professional. There is a culture of collaboration and a desire to develop new ideas and share good practice, in order to build on successes and student progress. In recent years, we have also worked with trainee teachers.

Outside of Covid times, students spend a significant amount of their spare time working in the Art Department, be it at lunchtime, attending the Art Zone which is run four nights a week, and for Sixth Formers many "live" in the studios in their study periods. All year groups are involved in school visits to galleries, exhibitions and other cultural destinations. These vary from local visits to visits to London and additionally, for Sixth Formers, to galleries in Europe.

Currently the department follows OCR for GCSE, AS and A Level for Art, Craft and Design, Photography and Graphic Communication. This enables us to provide a diverse creative curriculum choice and fits very much with our vision of a broad artistic curriculum. 2019 exam results at GCSE were outstanding, with the average grade being a 6 in Art, a 7 in Graphics and a 7 in Photography. 91% achieved FFT20 targets in Art, 94% in Graphics and 97% in Photography. There was no real gap in the performance between boys and girls. Also, Disadvantaged students performed in line with their peers and all other subgroups performed at or above expectations. At A Level ALPS scores were 3 in Art and Graphics and 4 in Photography. In September 2019, many students went on to university to pursue a broad range of Art and Design courses. We regularly have a good number following Art and Design as a career choice.

In partnership with the Technology and Media Studies Departments, we have an annual exhibition each year that fills the department and our gallery corridor with student work. This is a key event in the school calendar, attended by many year groups and staff during the day and parents and relatives at the private view in the evening. We also have rolling exhibitions through the year in the gallery corridor and the studios. These are done completely by the students who have become well versed in displaying their own work as well as valuing and improving their own exhibitions.

The department has a growing online gallery and alumni network which can be found here: <https://waddesdoncreatives.co.uk/> The department also has an Instagram account which is regularly updated with current exhibitions and student work. <https://www.instagram.com/waddesdonart/?hl=en>

To give you a flavour of some of what the students do, follow this link to the video of the 2019 summer exhibition which is at the bottom of the Art page on the school website:

<http://www.waddesdonschool.com/subjects/art-design/>

We believe that it is an exceptional department to work in, with wonderful creative students who can be nurtured into fantastic artists, photographers and designers, and we are looking forward to meeting you.

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### **Sarah Davis**



My first association with Waddesdon was as an Artist in Residence during 2004. I was quickly persuaded (by the wonderful ethos and working environment in the school) to train here as a teacher via the Graduate Training Programme. I have been teaching Art, Design and Photography at the school ever since. I was appointed Student Achievement Manager for the department in 2007, responsible for Key Stage 3 and Art at GCSE and A Level, supporting the Subject Leader for Art in the day to day running of the department. As a team, we have developed an engaging, exciting and contemporary Key Stage 3 curriculum that prepares students for the next phases. We are always delighted with the high level of take-up of our creative subjects at Key Stages 4 and 5.

As a classroom teacher, I am passionate about inspiring the development of pupils' curiosity, creativity, self-expression and artistic development in all three key stages. I want to see students travel as far and as fast on their creative journey as their talents, personal artistic interests and commitment will take them.

Before becoming a teacher, I had an exciting and varied career in the creative industries which culminated in becoming a director of a prestigious magazine publishing company. I took a career break to bring up my children and at the same time I pursued my passion for Art and Design through a degree in Ceramics and Glass. I have exhibited in galleries and public spaces and also worked for private clients. I believe my experience working outside the education sphere allows me to embed into my teaching practice the soft skills required to succeed beyond school.

I am proud to work at Waddesdon because of the wonderful experience the school offers to students both educationally and to flourish into rounded young people who are ready to take on the challenges of the twenty-first century in a caring and compassionate way.

## **Sharon Evans**



I graduated from Belfast University specialising in Design and continued to the University of the West of England to complete my PGCE. I have now been teaching for 22 years, having spent 2 years at The Grange School and 8 years as Head of Art at John Colet School. I'm in my twelfth year at Waddesdon and it's my forever teaching home. I am proud to work at Waddesdon; it's a very supportive community to work in. I love that I can teach a number of disciplines to enthusiastic students in a vibrant and inspiring environment. We are a passionate, adaptable and forward thinking team in the Art Department and synchronise together which makes us successful to do our best for our students. We are dedicated to bringing out the best and the artist within all young people.

Whilst my specialism is Design/Illustration, I feel that working at Waddesdon has made me a more multi-disciplined artist, able to move between digital media and art/design. I am a practising artist, exhibiting (when I can) and lucky to have sold many pieces at the successful local annual Art on the Hill event. I am a mum to lovely daughters aged 17 and 14, both currently Waddesdon students. I am very happy that we are all part of Waddesdon!

## **Rebecca Raynor**



Following my PGCE with Oxford Brookes, I started as an NQT at Waddesdon in 2004 and have had the pleasure of teaching in the Art Department ever since. Throughout my career at Waddesdon, I have taught all key stages, as well as working with many of our partner schools as a community link teacher, aiming to raise standards in art in Primary Schools. Previously, I have also worked in an advisory capacity at Cressex School in High Wycombe, aiding their Art Department to significantly improve performance. More recently, I have also taught Graphics and Product Design and alongside my Art teaching, I now oversee the Textile curriculum in the Technology Department.

Prior to my teaching career, I completed a degree in Fashion and Textiles in Birmingham, freelanced as a textile designer and worked for three years for Marks & Spencer in buying. These experiences have enriched my teaching and equipped me with a variety of transferrable skills that I often draw on in the classroom.

I feel immensely privileged to work with our young people to enable them to express themselves creatively and feel great pride in seeing them grow and flourish. It is highly gratifying to work in a school that holds Art in such high regard, and it is a pleasure to be part of a highly-dedicated team of art teachers with an array of varied specialist skills.

## **Kirsten Adams**



After completing my PGCE with the Institute of Education (UCL), I began my teaching career as an NQT at Waddesdon in 2018 and I could not have been luckier! It has been such a supportive and welcoming community right from the start and has allowed me to develop my teaching practice successfully over the 3 years I have worked here. The Art Department are excellent at sharing resources and looking after each other.

I was drawn to the Art Department at Waddesdon by the variety of subjects that are taught here - Graphics, Photography and Art. My degree is in Graphic Communication, so it has been a joy to be able to teach Graphics at the school and pass on my love for design to a new generation. I also teach Art and Photography and have enjoyed being involved in the learning process alongside the students' development of skills – my favourite moment is when something finally 'clicks' for their work and you can see the change in their expression. I find the students at Waddesdon are constantly brimming with enthusiasm and wanting to share new techniques they have discovered independently which really does make it a joyful place to work.

The school is brilliant at celebrating our students' work, and encouraging them to take pride in their work. We have a constantly changing display of work in the Art Department which brings inspiration and intrigue for younger students who are considering Art as an option. We are a dedicated department who all want the best outcome for our students, and I feel that this can be seen through the quality of work created.

## **Suzanne Chapman**



After graduating from Thames Valley University with a BA (Hons) in Design and Media Management, I spent the first part of my career working as a Graphic Designer in the City of London. I was part of a small team that built up a new creative department for the Pan-European Research Department of HSBC Investment Bank, producing custom illustrations and designs for the research reports that were published. At Deloitte Consulting I worked in a vibrant and creative design department that pushed at the boundaries of design within a corporate environment as we delivered interactive CD Roms, video production, web solutions (when the world wide web was very much in its infancy), animations and high-end print design for the consultants and their bid proposals. Eventually, I worked as a freelance Graphic & Web Designer whilst being a wife and mum to 3 amazing children, now aged 19, 16 and 13. I recently took on the role of Warden at my local church where I have been a member for the last 15 years. I also maintain the church's web presence, social media platforms, preach and lead services.

With over 25 years' experience in the design industry, I can provide technical and design support to the art teachers and students, as well as helping individuals with photography shoots during class time. I assist with exhibiting the amazing artwork produced by our students and have been involved with filming and video editing for whole-school projects (an area in which I am keen to continue developing my skills). In addition

to the creative support I provide to the Art Department, I am responsible for ordering, stocktaking and making sure the department has the resources it needs to operate smoothly.

I've only been at the school for a year, but I quickly realised what an absolute privilege it is to be part of the Waddesdon School community, where there is not only a strong atmosphere of care, support and respect amongst staff but also an absolute desire to see every student excel to their full potential.

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