



## PALMERS GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

### PGHS 11+ Art Scholarship

#### **The Art Department**

The Art Department at PGHS prides itself in providing a challenging environment to stimulate creative and enquiring minds. We encourage all pupils to reach their true potential to develop self-expression and to value learning as a life-long process. We provide every pupil with the opportunity to explore, experiment and expand their imagination using a wide array of media and resources. The arts curriculum is broad-based in order to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, promote enjoyment in learning and to provide skills to equip pupils for the rapidly changing world of work and leisure as active and confident participants.

Art and Design makes a unique contribution to School life and to the learning experience of all pupils. We believe that Art is of fundamental importance, not merely to develop self-expression, but also to increase confidence and awareness of the world around us and current affairs. Independence of thought and action is encouraged, together with application, perseverance and initiative. Pupils' artwork is always celebrated through the School's art displays, exhibitions, awards, competitions and social media.

The Art Department is accommodated in a large, bright studio and includes: 3D sculpture equipment including air-drying ceramics and wire; traditional drawing and painting resources including ink, charcoal and acrylic paints; and mono-printing and screen-printing equipment. Each teacher brings to the department their own area of interest and expertise and we have specialist teachers in sculpture, print-making, textiles, painting, drawing and graphics.

Our group sizes are small. KS3 are set at a maximum of 16 pupils. GCSE classes have approximately 6 pupils per group. The small groupings allow for a closer teacher-learner experience and all pupils receive individual feedback and support throughout their lessons. This enables pupils to develop their own personal creative journey.

GCSE pupils benefit from our wonderful in-school artist workshop programme, which sees established artists facilitating courses such as figurative life drawing and portraiture. Our pupils excel in these workshops.

We believe in the importance of learning away from the classroom and seeing artwork in real life is an essential tool in supporting pupil's understanding of the wider world of art and the artists they study. Therefore, trips to art galleries and museums are an important experience. Residential art trips, which include gallery visits and workshops are arranged for GCSE groups. Career events related to the Arts are also showcased. One of the Art

Department's highlights each year is our formal Art Exhibition which features work from all our GCSE pupils. Family and friends are invited to a private viewing where we are able to celebrate each pupil's creativity, dedication and success.

### **What are we looking for in an Art Scholar?**

Art Scholarships are offered to candidates who show a genuine enthusiasm for Art and Design and are fascinated by, or passionate about, a particular aspect of the arts curriculum. Art Scholars not only have exceptional technical skills but also use their creative and inquiring minds to find new approaches towards media and techniques. Art Scholars should show outstanding achievement or potential in a particular artistic area and stretch themselves, extending their learning by continually developing their skills. They should show a love for the subject beyond traditional expectations.

Candidates should be able to:

- Demonstrate an exceptional skill level in traditional forms of Art and Design (drawing, painting, sculpture or print-making) showing an expertise of formal elements relating to their area of interest;
- Show detailed knowledge in a wide range of contexts and be particularly creative;
- Have experience of working away from the classroom, demonstrating a genuine love of learning and the ability to work independently;
- Critically analyse their own artwork and the artwork of others and be able to communicate their thoughts and ideas well;
- Be determined and interested in their work.

### **Application Process**

#### **Stage 1**

Applicants are required to submit a digital portfolio of work to the Head of Art by 1st November in the year of application. The portfolio should include between five and ten pieces of artwork that show a variety of media and which have been completed in the last 2 years. The portfolio should be submitted in a single file, for example, as a PowerPoint presentation or PDF and emailed to [admissions@pghs.co.uk](mailto:admissions@pghs.co.uk) along with their 11+ Art Scholarship Application Form. Please ensure that all images are of good quality and ideally presented on a white background. A ruler should be added to the image to indicate the scale.

#### **Stage 2**

After the 11+ Entrance Examination, the Head of Art will select candidates, from those who have reached the required academic standard and demonstrated their potential as an Art Scholar, to be invited for an interview, which will be in addition to the usual pupil interview. Candidates will be asked to bring with them a physical portfolio of ten to fifteen pieces of artwork; it is likely that this will consist of the pieces submitted in the digital portfolio as well as any more recent pieces. During the interview, the candidate will have the opportunity to discuss their work with a member of the Art Department. Candidates will also undertake a short practical task.