



High Arts

2022/2023



Welcome from the Head



At Northampton High School, we have many different types of students, but most have at least one thing in common. They joined our school looking for a balanced and exceptional learning environment that would help them to grow - both academically, and creatively. They are bold and fearless learners because we take a different approach to learning, letting our students take risks and experiment, igniting their curious minds, finding the subject they excel at - or the project that makes them come alive. I am proud that our students have a dazzling array of opportunities to express themselves through art, textiles, music, drama and dance if that is their interest and skill set.

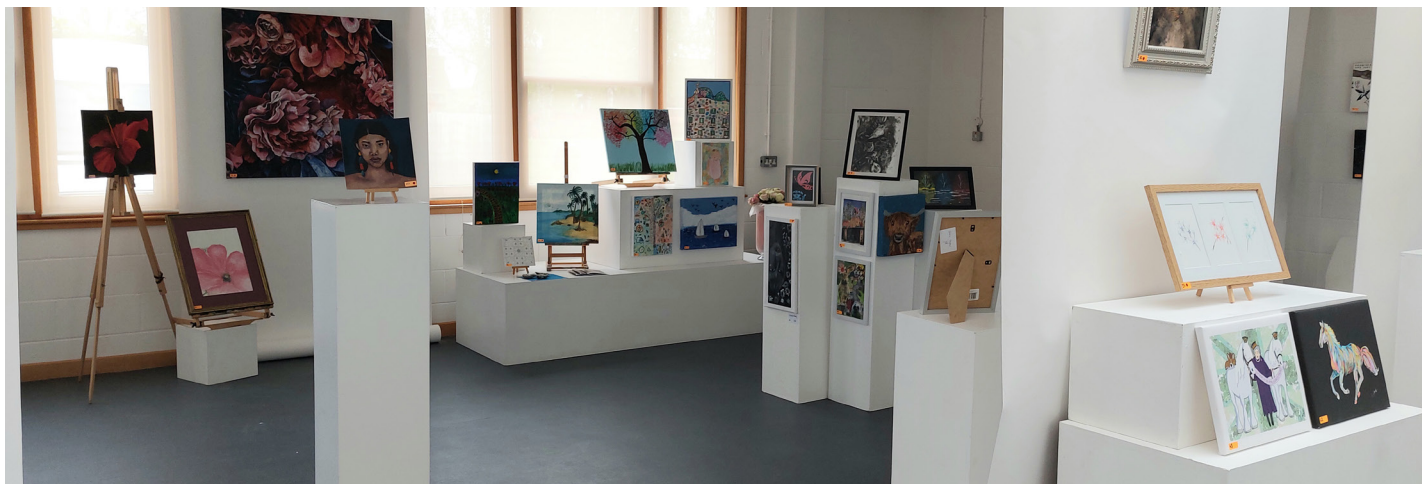
Life at Northampton High is vibrant and our dynamic Creative Arts Faculty offers a platform for students to become creative thinkers and change makers. We are fortunate to have inspirational, talented teachers in the faculty who encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect in which an individual's talents are nurtured and ambitions are supported.

Their excellent subject knowledge and expertise engage and inspire students and enable them to develop their imagination and their confidence through the plethora of unique educational experiences across the Creative Arts subjects. Our students have the freedom to express themselves and think outside the box, cultivate their own forms of self expression, unlock their potential and make a meaningful contribution to society.

I hope you will enjoy this year's publication which provides a powerful, yet just a small glimpse of the talents and skills that exist at our school - a place of magic, wonder and inspiration where the students are at the heart of everything we do.

Dr Lee | Head

Welcome from the Head of Art



In the Art Department, I proudly display copies of all the previous publications of High Arts. This collection functions as an exciting and important reminder of what our students from Nursery to Sixth Form have created and taken part in across the Arts.

In my 2021 introduction I wrote about ‘...the range of experiences we have worked through together as a community and how our students and staff across subjects rose to the challenge of maintaining and building on their creativity...The Arts have always had a positive impact on the lives of young people, perhaps more so during this difficult time.’ This sentiment is now a fading memory as we look back on 2022-23. Our Arts students, free from barriers, have had a bumper year.

It has been so uplifting to support and encourage our students, and watch them hone their skills. I love to walk past the music practice rooms, hearing them in full swing!

The Wizard of Oz promises to be a fantastic culmination of dedication and creativity. Months of preparation have again built up to another outstanding production. Music recitals, ceramics, The Spring Collective, GCSE food tasting, the Dance Festival, and of course, the excellent fashion show are also highlights of this year. Junior School continues to create wonderful art, craft and design pieces, which are always beautifully displayed in their vibrant classrooms. Displaying work and watching performances are important in that this activity as a viewer sends a positive signal to students - we care about what you have independently achieved and we appreciate your creativity. Never underestimate how much a round of applause is appreciated by a performer.

We hope that you enjoy the Festival with the huge range of creativity on show from our imaginative and dedicated students, who have given us much joy in lessons.

Mrs Beacroft | Head of Creative Arts Faculty

Art, Craft and Design (Senior)

It feels right this year to begin with a total. At the time of writing this, we have sold £2,108.00 as a result of our Spring Collective exhibition. 20% of this figure will be donated to The Hope Centre, Northampton. The satisfaction of helping others, alongside giving our students an opportunity to be professional artists, gave us great pleasure. Creating the work, framing, mounting and pricing are all part of the learning process on how to be a professional artist. We look forward to entries from our wider community next year, as we invite parents and governors to consider their artistic talent, and join us for another wonderful charity event.

The Spring Collective and Arts Festival are, of course, the culmination of our teaching and learning in school. Once again, the full breadth and depth of materials, tools and techniques have been selected by students, including mod roc hybrid creatures, wire sculptures, clay figures, photographic screen printing, drypoint engravings, oils on canvas, acrylics on board, film, digital painting and, of course, the many choices of tools we have for drawing. New purchases and developing areas of study include the use of Adobe Illustrator to prepare designs for linocuts, safe wash oil-based inks that professional artists use for inking up lino plates and analogue photography. We are recommissioning the darkroom so that we can build on our current offer of digital and analogue photography. It has been wonderful to see how the students have handled manual SLR cameras, as they carefully consider the exposure triangle, using black and white film.

Year 7 have created colourful drawings and paintings, and Year 8 ceramic sculptures have been built from insightful design sheets, on which ideas for transforming sculptures into lighting were considered. Year 9 have impressed us with their independent ideas during their pre-GCSE project, and their flower drawings are exquisite.



Year 10 and Year 12 are creating outstanding books for coursework, and we are delighted by their independence and commitment to generating fresh ideas. I conclude with Year 11 and 13 who have excelled. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and this can be seen through our vibrant school-wide exhibits and, of course, through the 'Portfolio' publication, which showcases the work of Art and Fashion & Textiles GCSE and A level students. We look forward to this special publication in the autumn term.

Mrs Beacroft | Head of Creative Arts Faculty

Art and Design (Junior)



The Junior School is an exciting place to showcase the creative talents of our girls. We celebrate the diverse artistic skills and achievements of students in all areas, including singing, acting, art and cookery.

Singing is an excellent way for children to express themselves and develop their musical abilities. From singing in choirs, to performing in musicals, our pupils are encouraged to explore their vocal talents, and develop their confidence on stage. The recent Year 6 production of 'Alice in Wonderland', and Key Stage 2 participation in the 'Voice in a Million' concert at Wembley Arena, are highlights those involved will remember for a long time.



Acting is another popular area that Junior School girls enjoy exploring. Whether they are performing in school plays or participating in drama activities and assemblies, acting is a fantastic way for them to build confidence, improve communication skills, and develop empathy. Through acting, our pupils learn to step into the shoes of different characters, explore different perspectives, and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. The Christmas plays, performed so delightfully by girls from Nursery upwards, were a truly charming way to start the Christmas season.

Cooking is a unique form of art that combines creativity and practicality. In Junior School, girls can learn valuable cooking skills, experiment with new ingredients, and explore foods from around the world. Cooking can help develop a sense of responsibility, time management, and organisation, while also promoting healthy eating habits. Cookery has been introduced as a weekly lesson to Early Years timetable, and is extremely popular as an after school club for Key Stage 2 girls, who enjoy making use of the excellent Senior School facilities.

Miss Hair | Head of Junior School

Fashion and Textiles

The Textiles studio has been a vibrant, colourful and lively space this year. We have introduced a range of new creative projects including festival flag making in Year 7 and a footwear design project in Year 8 which has explored the shoemaking heritage of Northamptonshire. This project has been underpinned by a visit to the incredibly inspiring Shoe Gallery at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. Our year 9 students have explored a Japanese theme using hand-painted fabric techniques to create Kimono jackets whilst Years 10 to 13 have worked on personal themes for their coursework projects.



We have gained new studio space for our A Level Students in the Creative Hub, where our students have a personalised desk space from which to complete sketchbook work.

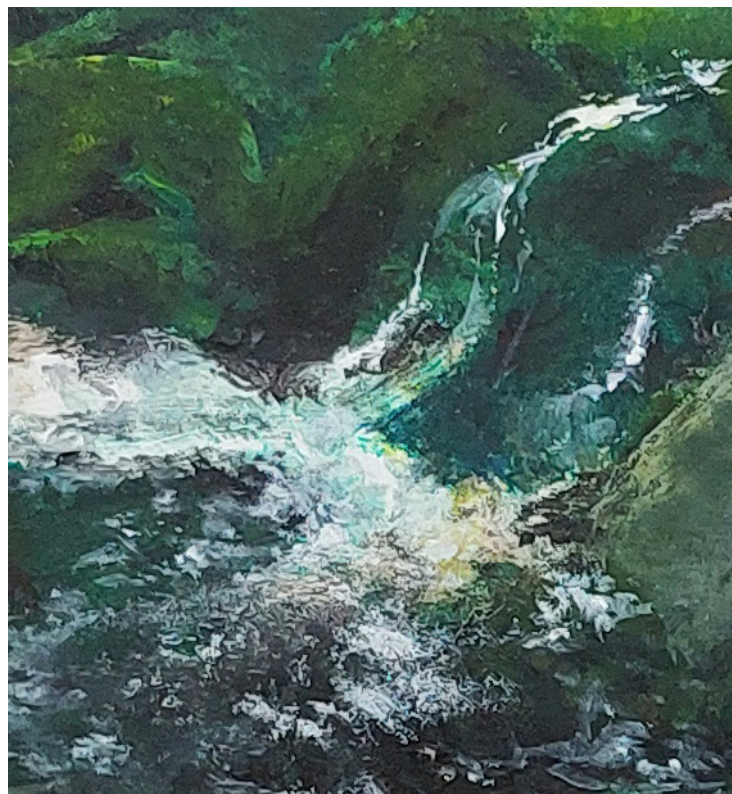
Our annual research trip to London with GCSE and A level groups was a highlight which included a visit to the V and A Fashion Gallery, the "Africa Fashion" exhibition and Liberty. Project work has explored diverse themes this academic year with students taking inspiration from Chinese Opera, Armenian Culture and the colour pink.

Sewing Bee Club has been well-attended by younger students who created upcycled fashion, cushion and Christmas cards.

Our fashion show assembly was well received with 30 students taking part as models, designers and dressers. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the skills and creativity our Textiles students have developed.

Miss Lycett | Subject Leader Fashion & Textiles





Food Preparation and Nutrition



In the school year 2022/23 we have already had lots of wonderful events taking place in our Food department, with, of course, plenty of delicious recipes making their way out the door too. Some highlights include:

In November, we hosted the first round of the 2022/23 Rotary Chef Competition with students from Year 7, 8 and 9 taking part. They were required to produce a 3-course meal within 2 hours. Dishes included: lamb curry with rice, coconut crusted haddock and Parmentier potatoes, apple and pear crumble, and mango mousse. Verity from Year 8, and Lucy from Year 7, went on to compete in the district round in February, at Bourne Academy, Lincolnshire. Both girls put their all into recreating their menus, and although neither progressed to stage 3, this was a fantastic opportunity to be a part of; well done!

In December, the long-awaited GCSE Borough Market trip returned after a three-year hiatus. The trip really is a celebration of food; exploring the stalls, observing all the produce on offer, and taking part in a fantastic workshop with Bread Ahead bakery. This year, the Year 11 students voted on the Japanese baking class, where we made a rice flour loaf, melon pan and cheese buns.

The GCSE students enhanced their understanding of bread making and departed with their tasty outcomes to enjoy with their families. We can't wait to go back again next year.

For Holocaust Awareness Week in January, the chosen recipe was a Jewish honey cake. A range of students took part and made these delicious mini cakes, which are traditionally made a few days ahead as the flavours and textures improve as they mature, but they did not last long! Jewish honey cake is a popular sweet treat when celebrating Jewish New Year or Rosh Hashanah. In March, Year 11 completed their cooking exam; they are required to produce three dishes within three hours. This year, all students chose the international staple food theme and their outcomes included arancini, chicken katsu curry with rice, ravioli, cinnamon buns with a caramel sauce, and tacos. This is not an easy task at all and they really tried their best to make the most successful outcomes possible; including presentation and portion sizing.



In the second half of the summer term, we are looking forward to hosting the Northampton High School MasterChef competition again, where students and members of staff are welcome to take part in pairs. This was a fun event last year and many wonderful dishes were produced with teamwork.

Miss Knight | Subject Leader Food Preparation & Nutrition

Music



The 2022/23 academic year has been the first uninterrupted musical year for some time, for which we are very grateful. Live performances have been firmly reestablished and music-making has been vibrant, challenging and fun.

As always, the primary focus during the autumn term was preparation for our flagship Christmas Concert. In addition to this, Key Stage 1 performed their Nativity, Key Stage 2 staged a wonderful performance of 'Baarmy Bethlehem' as part of the Key Stage 2 celebration. The Senior Choir entertained parents at the Christmas Fayre singing traditional carols. Many musicians set a wonderful example by performing at the school open mornings.

The spring term was incredibly busy, featuring Year 6 performing 'Alice', our annual Composition Recital before the February half term, musical performances from the choir during the Year 7 Showcase evening, our annual Examination Recital, amongst many other smaller performances. The finale of the term was, of course, the House Singing, ably managed by Mr Laubscher. At the time of writing, we are entering the final preparation stages for 'The Wizard of Oz'.

This is very exciting and it is always intriguing and magical to witness the various threads combine to produce such professional productions. Music was also prepared for the Spring Art Collective and April open morning.

We have an excellent team of musicians, teachers and administrators and we are pleased to have appointed several new instrumental teachers. We are also especially delighted, to have been donated an 1890 Bechstein Grand Piano, which is played by students during Friday assemblies.

Mr Nathan | Director of Music



Theatre

We had a very successful start to this academic year as the Drama department were delighted to host Kat Mary Productions for an exciting workshop on Kafka's 'Metamorphosis'. Year 10 Drama students were joined by another school to participate in a fully immersive workshop and show where the students were involved in every aspect of the story; they got to explore the text through the style of Brecht and Berkoff.

Throughout the year, the Drama department have been fortunate to visit a variety of theatres to watch inspiring theatre that both shocked and amazed our students. In the autumn term, GCSE students went to Leicester Curve Theatre to watch Shakespeare's 'Othello' which was beautifully adapted by Frantic Assembly. We then went to London's National Theatre to watch Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' which Year 11 have been studying for their exam. The Music and Drama Departments teamed up to take 60 students to the West End to watch 'Wicked', the students loved the show. Lastly, we went to watch 'Ocean at the End of the Lane', which was an exciting and inspiring show which has allowed students to take ideas and use them within their own devised work.

Drama clubs have been vibrant throughout the year, starting with a Christmas performance from the Key Stage 3 Drama Club, in which they performed to the Junior School. The High Drama Club, consisting of Year 9 and 10 students, were privileged to participate in the National Theatre Connections Project where they rehearsed and performed the play 'Tuesday' by Alison Carr. The students worked closely as an ensemble performance creating a physical and chorus-led piece. The students performed at Northampton High where Macadie Amoroso, a National Theatre mentor, visited and supported our students to prepare for our second performance at The Royal and Derngate, Northampton.



The performance was wonderful, engaging and entertaining and received extremely well by all audiences.

During the spring, Year 11 performed monologues for Component 2 exam. The students worked incredibly hard and refined post-2000 monologues, which they had selected and blocked in preparation. GCSE students performed powerful and refined pieces in front of a visiting examiner. Also, during spring term, Year 10 students devised their own Component 1 exam performances. They have been working independently, researching and experimenting with a variety of ideas like shadow puppetry and physical theatre to get ready for their exam in June.

Throughout the year LAMDA classes continue to be a popular extracurricular addition, with many students preparing for their LAMDA grades in the summer term. The students range from Reception to Year 9. Since February we have been staging our production of 'Wizard of Oz'. This is being directed in collaboration with the students and Creative Arts staff who have risen to the challenge, creating a performance with puppetry and flair! We are looking forward to performing in June.

Mrs Marriott | Director of Theatre

English

We have enjoyed another exciting year in English, beginning with a live-streamed author event in the autumn term, featuring Robin Stevens. Robin spoke to our younger pupils about life as a best-selling author, as well as providing details of her exciting new series the Ministry of Unladylike Activity.

Inspired by her example, we had an overwhelming number of entries for the GDST creative writing competition at the end of that term, which caused lively debate within the department as we selected winners for the different age categories. The theme was 'Our World'. Congratulations went to Annika Dani in Year 12, with Eliza Ali as runner-up. In the lower years, congratulations went to Maysha Chowdhury, with Motunrayo Oguocha as runner-up and highly commended certificates received by Emily Gates, Kareena Rana and Ammara Zafar.

Further talent was on display with entries for the GDST Laurie Magnus poetry competition late in the spring term. All entries were of a high standard and struck a chord with the English department, with themes ranging from political views on the environment to love and friendship. Congratulations went to Hunsil Bhatt in Year 10 for her



beautifully comforting poem 'Down the Window Pane', which found solace in the simplicity of the natural world and a rain drop. In the younger years, congratulations went to Abigail Stran, for her poem 'My Poem'- we found this highly entertaining, with a lively sense of humour, keen observation and effective overall structure. Runner-up was awarded to Ammara Zafar for her poem 'High Tide Horizon', with its warm and comforting message, impressive use of biblical language and compelling structural choices. Highly commended awards went to two students, Emily Gates for her heart-rending poem 'Twisted Truth' about the trials of friendship and Rose Neville for her poem 'Underwater', which featured an intriguing dual perspective set above and below figuratively crashing waves.

Mr Williams | Head of English



Dance



We were absolutely delighted with the standard of dance at our annual dance festival in the spring term. The spectacular show included pupils from Reception up to Year 11.

A range of choreography and music from different decades allowed pupils to shine and showcase their talents. Reception glammed in their 80s tutus and brightly coloured socks, with Year 1 giving us a pirate shanty and Year 2 wowing us as the Flintstones with their truly impressive costumes and props. Year 3 took us back to the 60s and Year 4 impressed us as the Pink Ladies in their Grease dance. Year 5 performed an amazing Spice Girls megamix taking us back to the 90s and Year 6 also wowed with a Steps megamix, again featuring some fantastic pop from the 90s. These class dances allow all pupils to be involved and the pupils should be so proud of their confidence and ability to perform on stage to an audience of over 300 people. Not only did the show include group dances but over 20 girls from across Junior and Senior School performed solos, duets, trios and one Senior group performed two brilliant pieces.

Many of the dances were expertly choreographed by our very own talented dance teacher, Miss Sinead, but some of the dances were choreographed by the pupils themselves. Thanks to the PE staff for their hard work on the year group choreography too. We cannot wait to start planning next year's festival!

The end of the spring term also gave our dancers an opportunity to enter the GDST Virtual Dance Competition. This annual event was introduced during the pandemic and allows schools to enter solos, duets and group dances from across the age groups. This year we entered several pieces from Reception to our Senior enrichment class, all choreographed by Miss Sinead. We are currently awaiting the results; the successful schools will get to showcase their work along with many of the GDST schools in the summer term.

The students' hard work did not stop there; we held our first Royal Academy of Dance Ballet exams on 22 and 23 March, the first since the pandemic, with many students taking live exams for the first time. Students from Junior and Senior School entered, and the results came back very quickly and are the most incredible marks, with students gaining High Distinctions and perfect scores in the Class awards.

We are also delighted to be able to offer students a wide range of dance in the lunchtime and after school clubs. Please get in touch with Miss Sinead if you wish to start your dance journey.

Mrs Blake | Director of Sport



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST