



## ARTS POLICY

At Parkside Community College, we strongly believe that the Arts are a fundamental means of self-expression, creativity and enjoyment. Students gain independence and a greater understanding of themselves and others through the process of translating their ideas and feelings into works of art. Parallel to the impact of the Arts upon the individual is the intrinsic need to create teams and communities within which to work, share and reflect. Such practices lead to improved tolerance and critical thinking amongst young people.

As a specialist Media Arts College, Parkside aims to provide all students with a broad Arts education where each individual discipline seeks to develop specific knowledge and understanding whilst simultaneously being informed by the central focus on media literacies and technologies.

Every student, regardless of age, ability or ethnic group, is given the opportunity to reach their full potential within our Arts programme. We strongly believe in fostering every student's individual talent and ensuring that every learner is given the maximum opportunity to achieve,

Teaching and learning within the Arts is founded upon the three college principles of excellence, innovation and collaboration.

### **EXCELLENCE**

Within the Arts at Parkside we are committed to excellence. This theme is founded on the following key values and provisions:

- A climate in which all learners reach their full potential in the Arts and become Media literate.
- Excellent specialist teaching in a range of Art disciplines for all students across the age range
- High expectations of all students to succeed and to set their own artistic goals.
- Opportunities for all students to have their work accredited and celebrated.
- Opportunities for staff to enrich and reflect on their teaching by providing regular continuing professional development.
- Excellent practice shared both regionally and nationally through our leading edge status.
- Working practices that acknowledge the importance of the process of creating works of art.
- Opportunities for students to perform or show their work to audiences.
- Excellent accommodation with a wide-range of facilities and resources.
- Equal opportunities for students of all ages, abilities and ethnic groups to participate fully in the Arts programme.



## INNOVATION

Innovation is vital to improving the quality of teaching and learning within the Arts. This theme is evident within the following key working practices:

- An innovative curriculum model which allows departments to work closely together.
- A range of courses and qualifications to suit learner's needs, including work-related learning, and accelerated courses, such as AS qualifications in the Arts.
- A wide subject base spanning the Arts, with opportunities for students to specialise in several areas at Key Stage Four.
- Classroom technology which makes learning interactive, flexible and independent.
- Subject teaching that extends students' media literacy across the specialist subjects.
- Opportunities for students to follow courses outside of school hours, with either direct supervision, or under the guidance of the teacher via e-learning.
- Enhancement opportunities for students which promote a broader understanding of the Arts, often through project work.
- Subject teaching across the college which exploits opportunities to use and further students understanding of Media Arts and Technologies.
- Provision of classes for the wider community with a particular focus on Media literacy for adults.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration forms a central part of Parkside's ethos. This theme is found within the following key areas of activity:

- Student collaboration through the shared creation and performance/exhibition of art.
- Collaboration between Arts disciplines, maximised through specific cross-curricular modules and projects.
- Collaboration with other non-arts subjects to foster creativity throughout the curriculum.
- Opportunities for Arts staff to network with other teachers locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Partnerships with external institutions, artists, and teachers, used to enrich the experiences of students.
- Links with Higher Education and subject networks ensure continuing professional development for teachers.
- Project work with primary and secondary colleagues leading to improved city-wide Arts provision.
- Parents and other members of the community, contributing to the mounting and celebration of student work.



- Links with a number of business institutions to create a number of work-related learning opportunities.
- Working with a number of disadvantaged groups and charities in projects and fund-raising activities.

The themes of excellence, innovation, and collaboration are inter-dependent in our work in the Arts and the college as a whole. This inter-dependence reflects the synergies found when working across media or disciplines, either within classes, or when involved in enhancement or independent learning. We aim to foster a genuine passion for learning about the Arts, encourage the creativity of each individual, and channel this energy into improving the communities in which we work and learn.