

ACCESSING THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School is a special time in a student's life. In the Visual Arts and Technology subjects at Overnewton, we aim to give students a taste of a wide range of Arts experiences.

Each rotation of Visual Arts and Technology subjects builds the students' ability to think creatively, solve problems and overcome challenges. The skills that students develop during Visual Arts and Technology subjects can be used in any situation, not just a studio or workshop, but it is here that we bend, break and blend the world around us to create something new and exciting.

In Year 5 and 6, students spend a term exploring each of the Visual Arts and Technology subjects on offer. In Art, students complete a two dimensional project; a collage inspired by the work of a contemporary Californian artist. During this process, students have contacted the artist and discussed his work and the inspiration behind his creations. In Visual Communication Design, students delve into the world of graphic design, creating packaging projects and completing typographical exercises. Students investigate the design process and how this differs from the art making process.

Technology subjects are an important part of the rotation experience. In Design Technology, the students design and create animal-themed coat hooks and use simple electronics, wood and plastic to build torches from scratch. Digital Technology prepares the students for the digital age with coding, programming, robotics and an introduction to how to navigate the digital world.

The Year 7 and 8 program allows the students to dig deeper into each of the Visual Arts and Technology subjects. With more time spent in each rotation, students solve problems, make connections with their other subjects and broaden their Art, Design and Technology skills. A full thirteen weeks is spent developing their hand-building clay skills in 3D Art, followed by designing and making containers for a specific object in Design Technology. Digital Technology provides an opportunity for students to create and design a website. A pop-up shop and logo is designed in Visual Communication and Design, allowing the students to experience how to create a design brief and artwork for a specific client and audience.

