Year 8 Electives 2013

Art

This is a practical subject with an emphasis on developing new skills and learning to use a variety of media in exciting new ways. This elective encourages students to examine the world around them, to incorporate their own interests as well as looking to traditional and modern artists for inspiration when designing and creating their own unique artworks. The design process allows students to explore different materials such as pastels, paint, ink, clay and glazes to create a series of drawings, lino prints, paintings and ceramic pieces.

Drama

In this elective you will develop a variety of skills including the use of voice and body through a series of performances and activities. Students will work in groups to create a values-based performance to a primary school audience. Students will develop skills in a variety of stagecrafts including; Lighting, Sound, Direction, Costume and Stage Management. Students will then work in groups to create a mini production which will include the use of a variety of stagecrafts.

Information Technology:

In this elective you will use a variety of software programs and learn the principles of computing. Students will explore Adobe Photoshop and develop their own images using various manipulation techniques. Student will then use Photostory to create their own digital story using the manipulated images, sound and text. This elective not only focuses on using software applications but also has a unit on Computer Programming where students create their own programs. Using Scratch, students will learn the basics of a computer programming language and create racing car, underwater world and pong games. Students will also be introduced to Microsoft Excel and learn the fundamentals of creating Excel spreadsheets and charts.

Media

The Year 8 Media elective is an introductory course to visual storytelling through different forms of media. Students will be introduced to scripting, storyboarding and composition and will apply these elements over several different projects. They will test their storytelling through a short photo-story, flex their creative muscle with stop-frame animation and finally apply their visual communication skills to shooting and producing a television commercial. The projects will be created using their Ipads and the cameras and Apple Mac computer suite in the Media Room.

Music

The Year 8 Music elective offers students the opportunity to develop their musical skills through performance, composition and analysis. Students expand their practical skills through playing musical instruments in solo and ensemble settings. Each student will be
given a woodwind or brass instrument for the duration of the semester. They develop their instrumental skills through lessons with specialist instrumental teachers, and in performing in a class band. The students will present a concert at the conclusion of the semester in which they present the works that they have learnt throughout the course. Students develop their understanding of music theory through composing their own works. They respond to music by listening to and analysing live and recorded performances. Above all, the Year 8 Music elective encourages students to be creative and have fun with music.

**Music Technology**

This unit offers students a valuable opportunity to develop their music and multi-media skills by investigating a wide range of software programmes in a creative way. Students use Sony Acid to learn how to create a re-mix of an existing song and to create soundtracks for short films. They learn to notate music with Sibelius. With Sonar they explore recording technologies and learn how to create their own music CDs.

**Product Design**

This elective will introduce students to the product design process, which they will use to design, make and evaluate products from a range of materials. Students will be encouraged to think innovatively and creatively to solve problems and engage with technology. They will gain an understanding of the history of product design and will learn about the impact products can have on our lives and our planet. Students will learn how to work safely in the workshop using a range of power and hand tools and will be introduced to 3D computer aided design (CAD).

**Visual Communication and Design (Graphics)**

This course aims to make students aware of the amazing man-made designs in their everyday life. These areas include the fields of graphic design, (posters, reports, logos), product design, (fashion design, industrial design) and environmental design, (architecture, landscape design and interior design). Students will be taught a range of drawing methods to create three dimensional objects and they will use the computer program Adobe CS4 (Photoshop and Illustrator) to develop exciting and imaginative designs and images for a particular purpose.