

HAMPSTEAD FINE ARTS COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

THE PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

CANDIDA CAVE

Forty years ago, in September 1982, we opened Fine Arts College in Belsize Park Gardens. At the time, we were the only college to specialise in the Arts and Humanities and give equal importance to creative and academic subjects. Fine Arts was set up to be the college we ourselves would have liked to attend, and it remains the same today. Our ethos was clear and has remained unchanged. We believe every student has the ability to succeed in the right environment. It is also imperative to choose the right subjects, to be well taught and encouraged to develop as individuals. Above all, experience has shown that students do best if they study in a happy, encouraging and enriching environment. Learning is a life-long activity and at Fine Arts we see our role is to instil a genuine love of learning in all. Examination results and Higher Education destinations follow naturally and are the first step on this path. We pride ourselves on being an academically non-selective college, which makes this year's examination results especially rewarding.



A NOTE FROM THE HEAD

EMMY SCHWIETERS

As we end the year with so much to celebrate it seems strange to look back to September when we were still living in the shadow of the pandemic. It has been a truly successful year crowned by exceptional A Level results. Students achieved a magnificent 10 A*s and 9 A grades in Fine Art A Level, with other outstanding results including 6 A* and 2 A grades in History of Art, and 6 A* and 3 A grades in Fashion and Textiles. Lara, one of our International Students followed a one-year course and achieved 4 A* grades in Psychology, Fine Art, History of Art and Spanish. Another one-year student Gene achieved A* in Music and A grades in Music Technology and History, while Reena achieved an A* in Fine Art, and A grades in Maths, Graphics and Photography. We were delighted with the results of our previous GCSE students. Ruby achieved A* in Fine Art and Media with As in Politics and Sociology; Phoebe achieved A*s in Music, Music Technology and Film Studies; Neve achieved A*s in Fashion and Photography with an A in Media, and Juliette achieved A*s in Fine Art, History of Art and an A in Fashion.

LEAVERS LUNCH AND EXHIBITION

We held the Leavers Lunch at Lemonia Restaurant in Primrose Hill. It was a wonderful celebration for students who had endured two lockdowns during their A level years.

Students enjoyed celebrating their time at Fine Arts with music, an exhibition of art work, and a wonderful Fashion Show.



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Leanne alongside our Student Council was responsible for our numerous Charity Events last year. In October we raised £1,882.75 for Liberty's Legacy, to raise funds for the Bone Cancer Research Trust, set up in memory of Liberty who died in October 2017, two weeks after her 14th birthday. As in previous years the money for our Christmas Charity Appeal was for Crisis at Christmas. This year we hosted a Christmas Jumper Day which raised a phenomenal £6,026. Students also created 160 hand-made Christmas cards for Camden's elderly, which were delivered with their dinner on Christmas Day. Our Staff v Student Football Match raised £1,735 for The Mark Paterson Trust which provides paediatric orthopaedic treatment and training in Ghana. Finally, in June we all dressed up as cultural icons and hosted a lunch/bake sale which raised £2,878.42 for UNICEF.



STUDENT RUNNERS-UP IN THE BIG WRITING CHALLENGE

A group of talented creative students had the challenge to produce a dynamic short story based around the theme of a journey. Shortlisted students were invited to a celebration event at Orion Publishing House where it was announced that two of our students, Zeynep and Persia were awarded runners-up prizes.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS THE BIG IDEA CHALLENGE

The Big Idea Challenge is a London-wide start-up competition run by London Metropolitan University for young people with ideas.

The Fine Arts team, Sid, Cyril, Jake, Lola and Oscar, under the moniker 'Find My Fun', had an 'idea' to develop an app to encourage young people to engage in fun outdoor activities. They were invited to an exciting evening of celebration at the Museum of London where it was announced that they were voted People's Choice Award champions of the competition.



CAN YOU LEARN TO BE AN ARTIST?



The least important and least interesting thing about taking a qualification in art is the qualification. More important is the portfolio of work produced, a passport to the next stage of one's education. And more important than that is the finding of one's 'voice' and the creative momentum that flows through it.

Definitions of art are legion - an important lesson is recognising the range of possibilities, tested or untested. It is tempting to emulate established or popular art encountered in the media, especially social media, without realising that this is somebody else's experience. To say something worthwhile you must prioritise your own direct, unmediated experience. By standing in front of the motif - animal, mineral or vegetable - you are doing something timeless and outside of fashion or 'style'.

We are bombarded by slick, finessed images everywhere we go. The process of evolution behind such images is rarely visible and

one can assume their genesis was swift and smooth. The success of the final artwork is likely to be preceded by research and rehearsal and many failures. These failures are not pointless but are the building blocks of the work.

This is why sketchbooks are so important; they hold the rough workings, collecting and rationalising the chaos of the process. Wrong turnings hang around so that their value may be recognised further down the road. To tolerate 'mistakes' means rejecting the curse of perfectionism. To offer a simple analogy, if while dancing, we falter every time a 'move' is less than perfect then we will be stiff, awkward and unexpressive before retreating from the dance floor altogether.

The acquisition of skills is important but should not delay making a statement. You don't need to be fluent before speaking in an unfamiliar language. At every age, people have something valuable to say and should be listened to - although the message may become clearer and more persuasive as the language

is refined. This process of refining requires determination and critical resilience and may need the impartial rigour of someone who has travelled the road before.

Art needs to say something but should value quiet voices as much as loud ones. Slight ideas can evolve into affecting works; there needs to be an openness to subtle and unexpected messages and meanings. Valuing the worth of one's opinions may also require recognition by a mentor, especially if there is a legacy of feeling unnoticed and unheard.

The history of art is rich with supportive examples of the insignificant acquiring great cultural weight - a chippy Dutchman painting his wobbly chair and eventually reaching an appreciative audience of millions. The internet puts all art within easy reach but makes everything flat and undifferentiated. There is no substitute for encountering art, face to face, its materiality sharing our space and demanding our emotional attention.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2022

A Level results: A*-A 45%, A*-B 66%, A*-C 84%

Architectural Association, Architecture Foundation
 Bath Spa University Filmmaking (Production) BA
 BIMM University Electronic Music Production BA
 Brighton University, Illustration BA
 Bristol, University of the West of England, Media Production BA
 Bristol, University of the West of England, Product and Furniture Design BA
 Bristol, University of the West of England, Business Management BA
 Camberwell College of Art, UAL, Fine Art: Photography BA
 Camberwell College of Art, UAL, Foundation Art
 Camberwell College of Art, UAL, Fine Art BA
 Camberwell, UAL, Interior and Spatial Design BA
 Canterbury Christ Church University, History with Foundation year BA
 Central St Martins, UAL, Foundation Art (3 Students)
 Central St Martins, UAL, Fashion Communication BA (2 Students)
 Chelsea College of Art, UAL, Fine Art BA
 Courtauld Institute, History of Art BA (2 Students)
 Glasgow School of Art, Fine Art Photography BA
 Glasgow School of Art, Communication Design BA
 Goldsmiths, University of London, Music BA
 Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Music Composition BA
 Kings College London, Film Studies BA
 Kingston University, Photography BA
 Leeds Arts university, Fine Art BA
 Leeds Arts University, Graphic Design BA
 London College of Communication, UAL, Photography BA
 London College of Communication, UAL, Photojournalism and Documentary Making BA
 London College of Communication, UAL, Film Practice BA
 London College of Communication, UAL, Music Production BA
 Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, Film BA
 Manchester Metropolitan, Business Administration and Management
 Manchester Metropolitan University, Fashion BA
 Met Film School, Practical Filmmaking BA (2 Students)
 Oxford Brookes University, History of Art BA
 Paris School of Art Fashion Photography
 Parsons, The New School, New York, Photography BA (2 Students)
 Queen Mary, University of London, English Literature BA
 Ravensbourne University, Architecture BA
 Ravensbourne University, Foundation Art (5 Students)
 Retail Fashion Academy, Garment Technology
 School of Visual Arts, New York, Animation BA
 University College London, Social Anthropology BA
 University for the Creative Arts, Games Arts BA
 University of Cardiff, Psychology BA
 University of East London, Musical Theatre BA
 University of East London, Acting for Stage and Screen BA
 University of Glasgow, History of Art BA
 University of Glasgow, Film and Television Studies BA
 University of Hertfordshire, 3D Games Art and Design BA
 University of Leeds, Theatre and Performance BA
 University of Leeds, Fine Art with History of Art BA
 University of Leeds, Global Creative Industries BA
 University of Manchester, English Literature BA
 University of Newcastle, Fine Art BA
 University of Sheffield, Politics and Sociology BA
 University of Sussex, Business and Management BA
 University of Warwick, English Literature and Creative Writing BA
 University of Warwick, Liberal Arts BA
 University of Westminster, Marketing Communication BA
 Wimbledon College of Art, UAL, Theatre Design BA
 Wimbledon School of Art, UAL, Costume for Theatre and Film BA

