

Subject Spotlight: Art

With a school community of incredibly talented artists, it is with great pleasure that we would like to introduce the work of Rohan Kowcun (Year 11), Kelvin Choi and Mia Knight (both Year 13) with a focus on portraiture. All very distinctive in their own styles, these students have established excellent subject knowledge to show a range of skills, techniques and processes. Please read below to find out more about their ideas and the meaning behind their work.

Rohan Kowcun



Rohan has spent the last year developing his portraiture work; inspired by artists such as Kehinde Wiley and Lucian Freud. Rohan has developed an expressive style with an aim to depict emotions that cannot be fully captured in a photograph using expressive painting techniques. Rohan hopes to pursue painting within the theme of portraiture and the human form.



Mia Knight

Mia Knight: My project is about mundanity in everyday life, highlighting the often bland and unvaried state of day-to-day living. I want to portray a fairly sombre topic in a bright manner and distort the atmosphere to appear relatable and comforting. My work is primarily inspired by my personal experience of the pandemic because it made me appreciate what otherwise may have gone unnoticed. I wanted to capture the unremarkable in a way that made the viewer re-evaluate the ordinary and elevate objects and people in the domestic sphere.

Kelvin Choi



Kelvin Choi: My project is about exploring and documenting the unique experiences that create the culture of our youth. My main goal is to capture the day-by-day energy that accurately represents what it means to be young; from the personal, intimate moments to the outburst of emotions that exhibit memories I can look back on. Inspiration for my work was a collection of people closest to me allowing me to see how much I value living my youth to the fullest, making the most of everyday. The faces and excitement from the most mundane moments inspired me to cherish them through a medium/skill I also take much expression and enjoyment in.

Subject Spotlight: KS3 English

We have returned to this new school year with a real passion and focus on reading; we have a vision of a reading-rich curriculum, and a curriculum which promotes high levels of literacy skills for all pupils. We hope our pupils are transported through literary works, which inform and add insight into their day to day lives, allowing them to appreciate the history and the diversity within the English Language and in Literature.

Year 7 begin their curriculum journey with Norse myths and a modern-English translation of an Old English text: 'Beowulf'. Old English (often referred to as Anglo-Saxon) is the earliest recorded form of the English Language. Year 8 are propelled forward in time, reading Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful*; this WW1 narrative punctuates life in the early twentieth century, and invites pupils to consider childhood then and now. Reading is a source of considerable inspiration and can be the origin of creativity for many pupils. There is a fine line between interpretation and creation, and it is pupils' confidence in their creative and analytical voices which we are seeking to grow and nurture. Here is an example of a Year 8 pupil's poem inspired by the symbol of the poppy:

'Poppies' by Shay Lineham

*Crash! Bang! Gunshots went off.
Darkness crept over the battlefield,
silence. A dove rose from the battlefield.
Both sides take it as a sign to stop shooting.*

*A poppy emerges from the fallen battleground.
A field now full of poppies
is now a world of peace.
Doves soaring across the warzone...*

*soldiers drop their guns and come to an agreement.
Poppy petals fall like the corpses of the soldiers.
The poppy, we remember.*

Years 7 and 8 lessons are supplemented and supported by Accelerated Reader lessons, once a week, in our new library. Pupils are challenged to read texts which stretch their reading ability, and a system of challenge and celebration is organised through quizzing. Since the beginning of the academic year, our students have read 2971 books through MyOn and read 9,135,085 words through Accelerated Reader. Topping the Accelerated Reader leader boards for their year groups are:

- Shan-Wei Church (7J) – 1,000,000 words
- Finlay Steadman (7R) – 660,219 words
- Yi Cheng Yoong (8I) – 522,566 words
- Alfie Mackenzie-Watson (8I) – 468,472 words

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our KS3 students; those who reach one million words will be rewarded with a Literacy Star pin to wear on their blazer.

Year 9 are engaging with the world around us through the lens of diversity. Pupils are reading and reflecting on the English and Media Centre's 'Diverse Shorts' alongside Yaba Badoe's 'A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars'. Pupils will read challenging works, such as 'The Colour of Humanity' by Bali Rai, encouraging them to reflect on the world around them, the voices which can be heard in literature, and the ways in which story-telling can impact and change the world.

If you would like to find any specific reading for your son, please look on Moodle for specific year group reading lists.