

Art Department

Celebrating Another Fantastic Year in Art

Art at our school is about far more than creating beautiful artwork. It provides a powerful voice for our young people, encouraging self-expression, confidence and independent thinking. Pupils are supported to research, experiment and reflect on their work, helping them to grow not only as artists but also as creative and resilient learners. These values are at the heart of our art curriculum, which encourages students to express their beliefs, ideas and individuality through their art.

Throughout the year, students have enthusiastically engaged in a diverse range of projects, exploring a variety of artists, cultures, materials and themes. The department has also continued to enrich students' learning through opportunities that deepen their understanding of the role of art within society and the wider world.

A Musical Success Reaching Switzerland!

The Art Department is incredibly proud to celebrate a fantastic achievement this year. One of our standout highlights was the creation of a poster design for a music festival in Neuchâtel, Switzerland and we are delighted to share that our design was selected for use by the festival organisers!

The vibrant and colourful artwork features a range of musical instruments brought to life by musicians, capturing the energy, creativity and excitement of live music. The design beautifully reflects the spirit of the festival and showcases the artistic talent and imagination of our students.

What makes this achievement even more special is that the poster will be displayed throughout Neuchâtel and featured on promotional flyers across the city, giving our students' work an international audience.

I am immensely proud of everyone involved in this project and excited to see our artwork making such a positive impact beyond the classroom and across Europe. This accomplishment is a wonderful example of how creativity can connect communities and cultures around the world.



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Buskers
FESTIVAL
NEUCHÂTEL

www.buskersfestival.ch

**11-15 août
2026**

**Neuchâtel
Zone piétonne
dès 17h**

**Dimanche 16 août
La ramée, Marin
dès 11h**

MUSIC



Neuchâtel



MIGROS
Pour-cent culturel



ine.ch

Image: Buskers festival festival.ch

An Artistic Success Reaching Catford!

Another highlight was our collaboration with the inspirational local street artist Nathan Bowen, whose vibrant work is both widely recognised and greatly admired by our students. Working alongside Nathan, students contributed to the development of a mural design that was shortlisted alongside three other professional artists' proposals for installation in Catford. This exciting project provided a valuable opportunity for students to experience how art can shape and enhance public spaces while making a meaningful contribution to their local community.

As part of the project, students explored the question: What does it mean to belong?

We started by observing parakeets. Parakeets are birds native to tropical Africa and Southern Asia, yet they have become a familiar presence in SE London. Like many Londoners, parakeets have arrived from elsewhere and have made the city their home. Our parakeet designs act as a metaphor for multicultural identity and the blending of cultures of our shared space.

However, parakeets are sometimes viewed as invasive.

Therefore, they can help to explore ideas of belonging vs exclusion.

Who decides what is "out of place"?

What does it mean to belong?

Students designed their own parakeet, using the process to explore themes of identity, migration and resilience. Some parakeets celebrate musical or sporting interests, while others represent heritage, gender identity, disability, values and aspirations.

Alongside the birds are Nathan Bowen's distinctive characters, varied in colour, scale and position. These figures represent the diversity of Lewisham's residents and celebrate the many people who live, work and learn within the borough. Together, the birds and figures suggest connection and belonging. Their interaction reflects the ways in which cultures, experiences and identities come together to shape the community we share, with the birds flying in the sky or perched on the urban architecture, creating a visual thread connecting environment and cohabitation.

At its heart, this mural is about visibility, diversity, pride and celebrating belonging.



A Place to Belong





Nathan Bowen gathering ideas.

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching art is witnessing the growth in confidence that takes place in the art room. Many pupils who initially felt unsure of their artistic abilities have gone on to create work of which they can be truly proud. The determination, focus, and creativity shown by our students have been outstanding.

I would like to congratulate every pupil who has contributed to the vibrant artistic community within our school this year. Thank you for your enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work. I am incredibly proud of all that you have achieved and look forward to seeing even more creativity flourish next year.

Have a wonderful summer and keep creating! 🎨 ✨

Rebecca Glover

