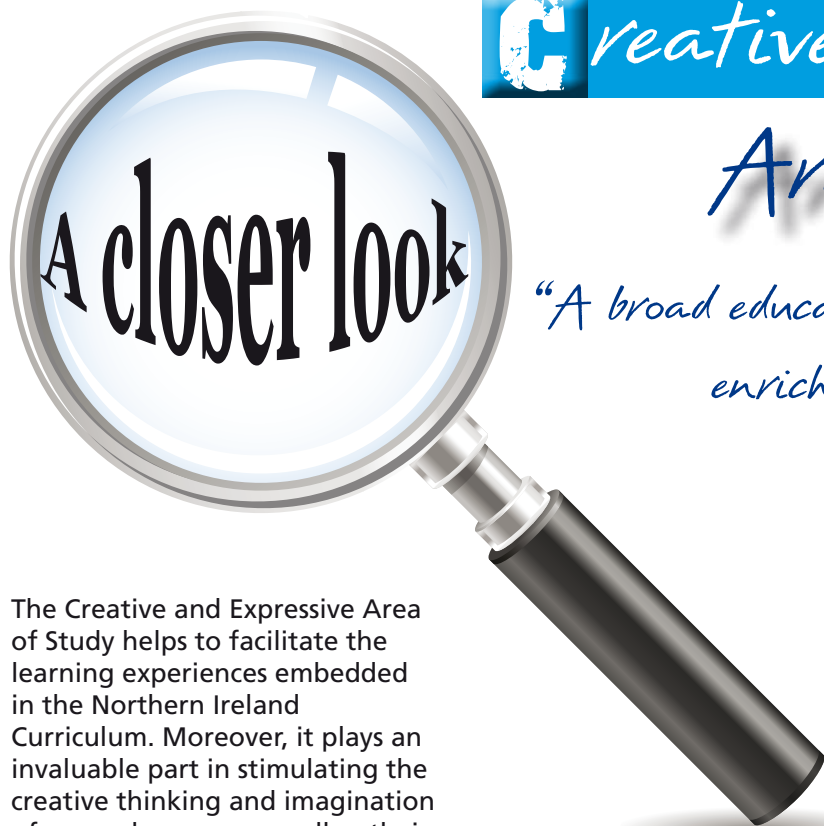


Creative & Expressive Area of Study



“A broad educational experience which will enrich interest and leisure for life”

The Creative and Expressive Area of Study helps to facilitate the learning experiences embedded in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Moreover, it plays an invaluable part in stimulating the creative thinking and imagination of young learners, as well as their skills and all-round development. There is commitment to this important dimension of children’s learning at Assumption Grammar School through Art, Music, Drama and PE.

Art

All junior pupils follow a varied art course and Art is a popular choice for GCSE, AS and A2 level. Post GCSE courses are enhanced for many by the study of History and Appreciation of Art which is also available to students with no practical artistic skills. Interest in specialised skills is developed at this stage, e.g. ceramics, textiles, pottery, painting and drawing technique. The school has an active Art Historical Society that regularly presents talks on the



work of major Art practitioners. Trips are frequently arranged to galleries and students also benefit from visits by practising artists, designers and sculptors. The Art Department also joins with the Drama and Music Departments to help produce school musicals and plays.

Music

In the Junior School students follow a varied curriculum which develops listening, composing and performing skills. As a Specialist School for Music with PE, the subject is a popular choice for students at GCSE, AS and A2 level and prepares pupils for a wide choice of careers. Tuition is available for a full range of orchestral instruments as well as voice, piano and traditional instruments. Pupils are entered for practical and theory exams through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and for various festivals. Extra-curricular activities include Senior and Training orchestras, Senior, Junior and Chamber choirs, Jazz, Traditional and Barbershop



groups as well as numerous other ensembles which girls may join as they reach the required standards. Each year the Music Department undertakes a full and challenging programme of concerts and recitals as well as taking advantage of many other performing opportunities including open nights, liturgical functions and other events. Singers and musicians regularly appear at community and charitable events and have performed on television and radio. Musical productions are also staged in conjunction with the Drama Department.

Drama

Drama plays an integral part in the life of the school as part of the junior English curriculum, at GCSE and A level and as an extra curricular activity. Pupils grow in confidence and ability through drama workshops and they enjoy the opportunity to develop and experience a range of theatrical and performance skills. These include



acting, stage management, set and costume design and proficiency in technical areas such as lighting and sound. Our facilities include a state of the art drama suite, complete with tiered seating, which gives students the opportunity to perform in a proper auditorium,



something which also enhances the theatrical experience for members of the audience. The many theatre trips organised by the Department cultivates in our students an appreciation of drama as an art form and often inspires them to pursue a career in performing arts. The Drama Department regularly hosts performances from touring professional theatre companies and Theatre in Education groups,

giving students the opportunity to work with directors and actors to develop their skills. Students are also encouraged to participate in a wide variety of dramatic projects with external agencies and have won many competitions including BBC Blast One To Watch, BBC Lights, Camera, Action, Equality Commission's International Women's Day, Spring Chickens International Theatre and Shakespeare for Schools, to name but a few. School productions, practical examination pieces and performances in the Junior Drama Festival all offer parents the opportunity to witness for themselves the wealth of dramatic talent within the school. Productions such as 'The Sound of Music' are always a sell-out. The

shows are huge successes and wonderful celebrations of the talent we have here in the school.

Physical Education and Leisure

Sport plays a major role in the life of Assumption Grammar School both as an integral part of the curriculum and as an extra-curricular activity. Presently our facilities include a new Sports Hall accommodating 4 badminton courts, an international size netball and basketball court, a modern fitness suite and dance studio. Our outdoor facilities also include a camogie/gaelic pitch, a 3rd generation floodlit pitch and 2 full sized netball courts/ tennis courts.

Activities offered at KS3 are: dance, gymnastics, netball, camogie, gaelic, swimming, athletics, cross-country, health related PE, minor games and tennis. Activities offered at KS4 are: badminton, volleyball, dance, health-related PE which includes the use of the fitness suite. The Year 13 pupils have the opportunity to participate in Leisure Studies as part of the Enrichment Programme. One of the aims of this module is to give the pupils the chance to experience a range of activities in which they can participate outside of school and after they leave school. Physical Education is also offered at GCSE and A-level. Our results to date have been very impressive.

