Curriculum Overview: ART Year 7 Autumn Term

Rationale	The Year 7 formal elements project provides pupils with the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for success in Art. By exploring line, shape, form, colour, tone, texture, pattern, and space, pupils develop their understanding of how artists create and communicate ideas visually. Studying the work of Yayoi Kusama allows pupils to apply this knowledge in a creative context, exploring colour theory, pattern, and repetition while developing observational, practical, and evaluative skills. The project encourages creativity, experimentation, and confidence, providing a strong foundation for future art projects throughout Key Stage 3 and beyond.	
	Half Term 1	**Half Term 2**
Topic Title	**Formal Elements**	**Formal elements – artist link**
What Students will learn:	In Year 7 Art, pupils learn about the formal elements of art, which are the building blocks artists use to create artwork. They explore line, shape, form, colour, tone, texture, pattern, and space, developing their understanding through drawing, painting, and design activities. Pupils learn how artists use these elements to communicate ideas, create mood, and make their work visually interesting. Through practical projects, they experiment with different materials and techniques while building observation, creativity, and confidence in their artistic skills.	This term, Year 7 pupils will study the work of Japanese artist **Yayoi Kusama**, renowned for her use of bold colours, repeated patterns and distinctive polka dots. Pupils will explore how Kusama uses the formal elements of art, particularly colour, pattern, shape and form, to create striking and visually engaging artworks. Drawing on their understanding of the formal elements and colour theory, pupils will design and create a decorative bauble inspired by Kusama's artistic style. They will experiment with colour combinations, repeating patterns and surface decoration while developing their practical making skills and creative confidence. Throughout the project, pupils will analyse and evaluate artwork, use specialist art vocabulary, and refine their ideas through the creative process to produce a final piece inspired by one of the world's most influential contemporary artists.
Key Vocabulary	Line, Shape, Form, Colour, Tone, Texture, Pattern, Space, Primary Colours, Secondary Colours, Warm Colours, Cool Colours, Complementary Colours.	Yayoi Kusama, Contemporary Art, Sculpture, Installation, Pattern, Repetition, Polka Dots, Shape, Circle, Form, Colour Theory, Primary Colours, Secondary Colours, Warm Colours, Cool Colours, Complementary Colours, Contrast, Tone, Texture, Composition, Design, Decorative, Symmetry.
How Parents can Help	• Encouraging their child to notice the formal elements in everyday life, such as colours, patterns, textures, shapes, and forms around the home and local environment. • Visiting galleries, museums, or looking at artworks online and discussing what they can see. • Providing opportunities for simple sketching from observation. • Asking their child to explain the techniques and vocabulary they have learned in lessons.	• Looking at examples of Yayoi Kusama's artwork with their child and discussing the colours, patterns, and repeated dots she uses. • Encouraging their child to spot patterns and colour combinations in everyday objects, clothing, nature, and buildings. • Providing opportunities for simple drawing, colouring, or craft activities at home. • Talking about colour choices and asking why certain colours work well together. • Encouraging pupils to explain the art vocabulary they are learning, such as pattern, repetition, colour theory, contrast, and composition.

Careers	Through this project, pupils learn to: • Observe and record visual information accurately. • Communicate ideas through images. • Experiment with different techniques and materials. • Evaluate and improve their work. • Solve creative problems. • Use specialist art vocabulary confidently. These are important skills that employers value in the creative industries, as well as in careers in engineering, construction, media, education, and technology.	This project introduces pupils to how artists and designers use colour, pattern, shape, and form in creative careers. By studying Yayoi Kusama, pupils gain an understanding of how artists develop a distinctive style and communicate ideas through visual design. **Careers linked to this project include:** Fine Artist, Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Textile Designer, Surface Pattern Designer, Product Designer, and Set Designer. Throughout the project, pupils will develop transferable skills valued by employers, including creativity, problem-solving, observation, design thinking, visual communication, attention to detail, planning and refining ideas, evaluating and improving work, and independent working. These skills are useful not only in creative industries but also in fields such as architecture, engineering, marketing, media, and technology.







