

Gifted & Talented Visual Art Program

APPLECROSS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
VISUAL ART GATE INFORMATION BOOKLET



History & Current program

The Gifted and Talented Visual Arts program was established at Applecross Senior High School in 1968.

Our Visual Arts program, the first of its kind in Western Australia, surpassed 55 years of duration in 2023 and will soon celebrate 60 years of excellence in 2028. Known for its strong tradition and reputation, it has produced graduates highly regarded by both tertiary institutions and the arts industry. Many successful Western Australian artists and designers began their artistic development in this selective program, making it a cornerstone for aspiring creatives in the region.

Over the years, the program has evolved. Initially, students had to attend after-school extension classes at Perth Technical School, and entry testing was managed by the school. Today, all classes are held on campus, and the testing process has been centralised by the Department of Education. The entrance process remains rigorous, evaluating academic skills, creative thinking, and artistic aptitude. Due to its popularity and competitive nature, the program now serves over 160 students across Years 7 to 12 in any given year. The program is housed in a state-of-the-art art department featuring four spacious, light-filled studios, two computer labs, gallery spaces, and an outdoor work area.

Industry connections are a key feature of the program, allowing students to build relationships with leading institutions such as Curtin University and the University of Western Australia (UWA). These partnerships provide access to higher education pathways, professional networks, and contemporary art practices through guest lectures, workshops, and exhibitions, helping students bridge into future studies and careers in the arts.

Sherina Wang (Year 12)





Molly Rovis-Hermann (Year 12)

We seek students with natural creative talent and a strong desire to develop their skills. The curriculum blends visual inquiry, studio work, exhibitions, and critical reflection. Students benefit from gallery visits, sketching tours, art camps, and workshops that introduce new materials and technologies. These skills extend across academic disciplines, guided by dynamic teachers and professionals. A highlight is the Saturday workshops led by professional artists, where students explore specialised studio disciplines and exhibit their work.

The differentiated curriculum immerses students in contemporary visual arts practices, exhibitions, and collaborative workshops in a supportive environment for gifted learners. Our aim is to foster conceptual thinking, visual communication, and personal exploration of artistic ideas.

Students are enrolled in a fulltime school curriculum while participating in the Gifted and Talented Visual Arts program. During the week, they are placed in specialised GATE Visual Arts classes, while the Saturday workshops provide extension and enrichment. Many students also qualify for the school's Academic Extension program in core MESH subjects (Math, English, Science, Humanities), with placement determined on an individual basis.

The curriculum advances students through foundational skills in Year 7, studio disciplines in Years 8 to 10, and ATAR or General Visual Arts/Design pathways in Years 11 and 12. Senior students receive Saturday workshop support and, Year 12s gain mentorship on coursework.

Students engage in analytical and reflective processes, responding to artworks in social, political, historical, and cultural contexts. High standards of visual literacy and written skills are required, with GATE students facing increased weightings in responses. The program aligns with the WA Curriculum but is enriched for gifted learners.

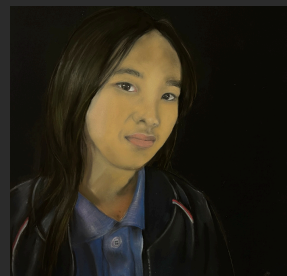
The Impact of Visual Arts Education

Creativity Meets Critical Thinking: Empowering students to excel across all subjects through visual arts education.

The Visual Arts program at Applecross Senior High School will have a profound impact on students, not just within the art room but across various academic disciplines. Visual Arts fosters critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving skills essential for success in core subjects like Science, Mathematics, and English. Through hands on projects, students engage in deep analysis, refine their approaches, and develop perseverance, all of which are directly applicable to academic challenges outside of art.



Vidya Lays (Year 7)
Peyton Taylor (Year 10)
Cathleen Lin (Year 10)
Freya Batchelor (Year 10)
Maeve Mathewson (Year 10)
Jin-E Kim (Year 10)
Shylah Falconer (Year 7)
Elsa Hu (Year 9)



In subjects like Mathematics and Science, students in the Visual Arts program will benefit from enhanced spatial reasoning, pattern recognition, and conceptual understanding. The ability to visualise problems, think creatively, and experiment with solutions directly complements these disciplines. Similarly, the process of critiquing and reflecting on artwork sharpens students' analytical skills, improving their performance in subjects like English, where interpretation and critical thinking are key.

Furthermore, the interdisciplinary nature of Visual Arts helps students make connections between different fields, blending creativity with logic. The program encourages collaboration, communication, and innovative thinking, which translates to greater confidence and improved performance across the board. By fostering a holistic, well rounded skillset, the Applecross Visual Arts program will enable students to excel academically and become adaptable, thoughtful learners across all areas of their education.



Yongqi Chen (Year 9)

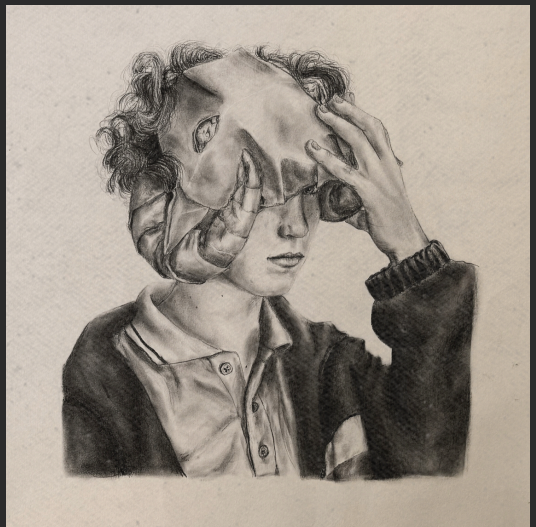
Student Expectations

As a member of the GATE Visual Art programme students are expected to meet and maintain excellent standards in the general school programme, Visual Art classes and Saturday work- shops. This includes academic performance, attendance, participation and behaviour.

The following standards and requirements are expected of each student:

1. Complete the 6 year program. Senior school students select General and/or ATAR Visual Arts and/or Design subjects to complete Years 11 and 12 of the program.
2. Attendance at Saturday workshops, Annual Exhibition and any support or extension classes is a mandatory requirement of the program.
3. Comply with all school rules and policies.
4. Maintain an excellent standard of performance and progress in all Visual Arts classes and in Saturday workshops. Achieving A grades in Visual Art and Design subjects is expected.
5. Demonstrate a positive attitude, self discipline, commitment and cooperation at all times. It is expected GATE Visual Arts students will involve themselves in all aspects of the program including exhibiting resolved studio pieces and volunteering from time to time as ambassadors for the program.
6. Maintain a high standard of attendance, (minimum 95%) and punctuality and academic endeavour (Minimum C grade average across all other learning areas). Please note that a minimum B Grade in English is required for entry to ATAR Visual Arts in senior school.

Diba Dastyar (Year 10)

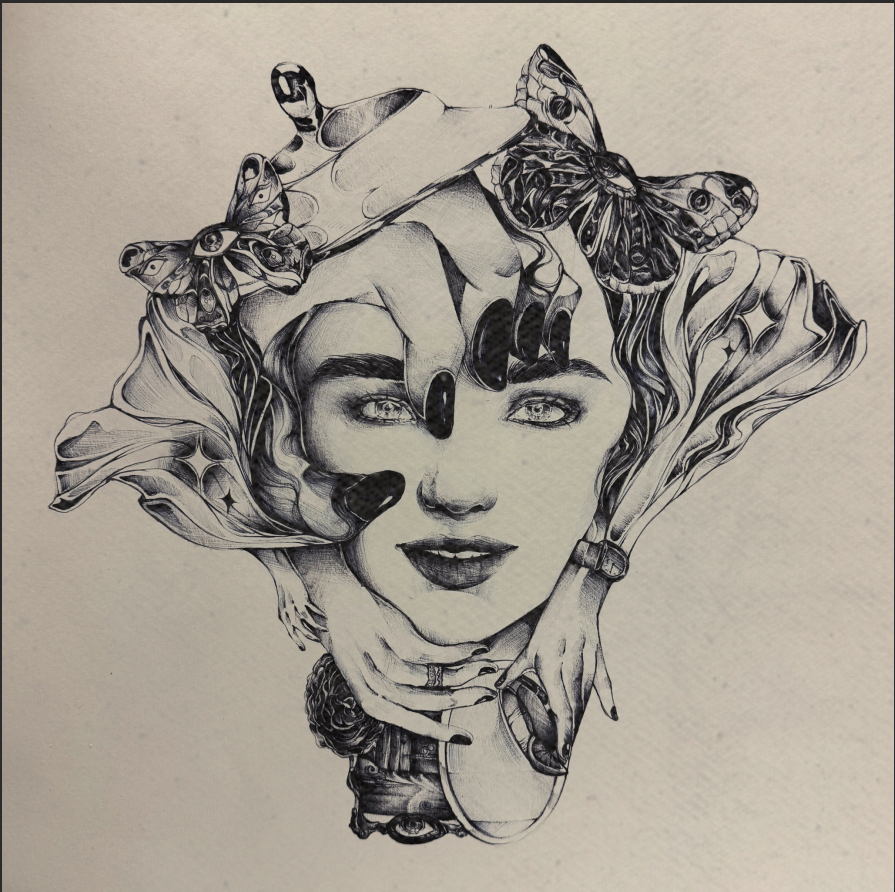


Sam Majer (Year 8)

It is expected that students selected for GATE programs are engaged, enthusiastic and able students and will effortlessly meet these conditions. Furthermore, it is expected that students make Saturday workshops a priority over all other activities including sporting and social events.

In the instance that a student needs support to meet these requirements, a tiered action plan is in place to help them achieve set targets. This may include targeted support on Saturday mornings in written, drawing or other skills as determined by the Coordinator or time spent on completing Visual Arts curriculum work. Tiered action plans are detailed in the GATE Visual Arts Student Agreement which is supplied upon enrolment and forms an important part of the enrolment process.

Zelia Carter (Year 9)



Application Process

Selection into the Gifted & Talented Visual Art program at Applecross SHS is based on talent and aptitude.

The selection process is managed by the Gifted and Talented (GATE) Selection Unit – an arm of the Department of Education.

Applicants can apply for Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 entry. All applicants participate in the Academic Selective Entrance Test (ASET) and in aptitude testing workshops and interviews onsite at Applecross SHS. Workshops test both written and practical skills. Testing for Year 7 applicants is conducted externally by the Gifted and Talented selection unit. Successful applicants are offered interviews onsite at Applecross SHS. Specific requirements for the interview, including portfolio, are communicated at the time of the interview offer. Once the interview process is finalised offers are made only by the GATE selection unit.

Applications are open from early October to very early February. It's best to register your interest from March of any year on the Gifted and Talented website to receive news and reminders about application deadlines and testing dates for entry 2 years in advance.



Giorgina Pitchin (Year 11)

The Testing and Interview Process

The tests are designed specifically for Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance programs and work to identify those students most suited to the program. They are designed to identify potential, rather than acquired knowledge. The interview is an opportunity for applicants to share their interest in and passion for visual arts and to show their ongoing engagement in artistic and creative practice through their portfolio. Applecross SHS seeks applicants who are committed to nurturing their creative potential through the program and have a strong commitment to engaging in the program for the duration of their secondary schooling.

Application Process Example

Year 5 2024



Apply in October (applications can still be made up until Week 1, Term 1, 2025 but this is *not advised*. You may need time to gather information, etc. Late entries are *not accepted*.)

Year 6 2025



The testing and interview process is completed. Based on the results of testing offers are made to successful applicants around mid-year.

Year 7 2026



Successful 2024/2025 applicants to the Visual Art Gifted and Talented programme commence in the programme in year 7 2026.

How to apply

Please apply online on the Department of Education website. Make careful note of important dates. Late applications are not accepted.

Visit the Applecross Senior High School website. Select the '**specialist programs**' tab for more information.

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented>

Mia Bechar (Year 12)



CONTACT

Department of Education

Central office and general enquiries
08 9264 4111

151 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004

www.education.wa.edu.au

Applecross Senior High School

Reception
08 9314 9393

Links Road, Ardross WA 6153

<http://www.applecross.wa.edu.au/>

Maisie Kidd (Year 9)
Eureka

Winner of the 2024
Shaun Tan Award for
Young Artists





Giorgina Pitchin (Year 12)



APPLECROSS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

GIFTED AND TALENTED VISUAL ART PROGRAM