

Year 11 Art Trip to Watts Gallery - Report by Coral Phillips, Art Teacher, Glebelands School

On Thursday 29th January, our Year 11 Art students enjoyed an inspiring educational visit to Watts Gallery, Artists' Village in Surrey. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage directly with the life, work and creative legacy of George Frederic Watts and his wife, Mary Watts.

Students explored several key areas of the site, including the Watts Chapel, the historic house and studio, and the main gallery. Each space offered unique insight into the artists' beliefs, working practices and the wider Arts and Crafts movement. The intricate decoration of the Chapel, much of which was designed by Mary Watts, proved particularly fascinating and sparked thoughtful discussion about symbolism, craftsmanship and collaboration in art.



A highlight of the day was a hands-on clay tile workshop, where students were able to design and create their own relief tiles inspired by the techniques and decorative motifs they had seen around the site. This practical session encouraged creativity, problem-solving and experimentation, while reinforcing key skills relevant to their GCSE coursework.

Throughout the visit, students demonstrated excellent engagement, curiosity and behaviour, asking insightful questions, studiously sketching and showing enthusiasm for the activities. The experience helped deepen their understanding of art beyond the classroom and illustrated how historical context and environment can influence artistic practice.

The visit was a memorable and enriching experience that will continue to inform and inspire students' work for their GCSE exam projects.

The Art Department would like to thank the staff at Watts Gallery for their warm welcome and expertly delivered sessions. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to The Arts Society Cranleigh, whose generous sponsorship covered the admissions for the trip and helped make this enriching experience possible for our students.



Some of the tiles the students created:

