Years 9 & 11 Visit Tate Britain

In the last few weeks of February this year, Year 9 were taken to the Tate Britain by the Art Department. We toured through the galleries, stopping for a few minutes at a time to sketch the nearest sculpture, drawing or painting that happened to catch our eye.
We visited the Henry Moore exhibition, where we marveled at the simplistic yet intriguing sculptures depicting the different values of friendship and family. We also looked at the works of Turner, a fascinating painter obsessed by landscape and light. His paintings were truly mesmerizing. For a hopeful future art student, this experience felt like a new door opening.
A lot of people in my class have now chosen Art as part of their GCSE options and I have no doubt that this eye-opening trip may have influenced some to take their Art as a serious profession. I have heard many people say to me that what Art does for people is wonderful. I have also had many people tell me that, even though Art is not to be overlooked, it won't help me in the future. I beg to differ. At my age, we are just beginning to find ourselves. I have always found Art to be one of my favourite subjects. If this one subject can bring me so much happiness then why should I let it go? If something makes me happy, I should hold onto it, shouldn't I?
I can spend all my life weighing up the pros and cons of taking this subject for GCSE or A Level, but honestly, I couldn't care less. It makes me happy and that is all that matters for now.
As one of my favourite authors wrote:
"*You have to believe there are kisses and laughs and risks worth taking*".

By Zoha Ahsaan-Ali 9H

Sketchbook double page by Anjali Ramdhian, 9R .

Expanding our artistic horizon

To launch the G.C.S.E art exam paper 2015 on " Apart & Together ", the AS art exam paper on " Relationships " and the A2 exam paper on " Flaws, Perfection, Ideals, or compromises ", the Art department took their students to several galleries to motivate them and generate ideas. We visited the Barbican with the sixth formers to see an exhibition of the personal collections of artists. The Parasol unit and the Miro contemporary galleries were another wonderful source of inspiration.
Here is Rojah's account of her visit to the Tate Britain:

"Both Year 11 GCSE Art groups visited the iconic art museum 'Tate Britain' in Central London. Situated in an eclectic, urban setting, the museum provided us students with a deeper insight into some of British artists' most celebrated artworks, as well as a wonderful day out!
The day was split into two main chunks, tours through the museum being given by our GCSE art teachers Mrs Jerome and Miss Campbell. Each teacher took us on a journey through a vast and mysterious spectrum of art genres, including Donald Rodney's 'The House of my Father'. What was most captivating about the Tate Britain was the sheer volume of exhibitions, particularly when considering that the artwork displayed touched on both prominent social issues of British society and simpler rhetoric of life.
The visit assisted us in exploring and developing our ideas for our GCSE exam theme "Apart and Together". The in depth research of inspirational artists such as Antony Gormley and William Blake kindled our imaginations and inspired us to explore unconventional routes in art and perhaps conveying messages through this form. Overall, our time at the Tate Britain was truly valuable in expanding our horizons and helping us to achieve the best possible grade in August 2015."

By Rojah Thayabaran 11H