

Year 8 – Celtic Art Autumn Unit 1

Project Outline

In this unit, students will develop their knowledge about the history and stylistic features of **Celtic Art**. Symbols, zoomorphic and human motifs from **The Book of Kells** will provide secondary source imagery to develop **observational drawing skills**. Carefully sequenced and structured drawing tasks will support students to record challenging complex motifs. **Tonal shading** will be used to add depth. Students will be taught how to apply a base wash of colour to stain a background before using watercolour paint with care and purpose to accurately copy a Celtic original.

Lesson Outline

Lesson 1	Introduction to the project – You will learn the basic facts about Celtic Art; its origins, influence and key stylistic features. Independent Study 1 – Celtic Research Sheet
Lesson 2	Celtic Symbols - focus on observational line drawing from secondary sources. Students will be taught how to draw a basic Celtic Triquetra symbol using a numbered step-by-step sequence. Initial lightly sketched curved lines will be replaced with smooth, precise lines.
Lesson 3	Celtic Symbols (continued) - Students will further develop the outline of a basic Triquetra before adding patterns and a snake head. Fine liner will be added for linear definition. Tonal shading will be added to enhance the illusion of depth. Independent Study 2 – Book of Kells
Lesson 4	Celtic Zoomorphic Features – an introduction to animal heads in the Book of Kells. Students will use watercolour washes and tea bag washes to stain prepared line drawings. Mixing watercolours to accurately match the original image. Focus on layered, controlled application of paint
Lesson 5	Continue to watercolour wash the artist copy. Independent Study 2 – Book of Kells Research Task
Lesson 6	Completion of watercolour washes followed by coloured pencil detailing and/or pencil shading to add depth.
Lesson 7	Presentation of classwork tasks (2 Triquetra studies & a Zoomorphic animal head watercolour study). Introduction to drawing human and animal imagery using grids. Independent Study 3 – Animal & Human Features

Independent Study Outline

You will be expected to complete 3 pieces of independent study during this project. Please ensure these are completed to the very best of your ability and presented with care in your sketchbook.

Independent Study 1	Write in your planner – Celtic Research Sheet Complete all sections of the worksheet (instructions on actual sheet). Stick in your sketchbook when finished.
Independent Study 2	Write in your planner – Book of Kells Research Task Complete all sections of the worksheet (instructions on actual sheet). Use a whole page in your sketchbook to present your HW.
Independent Study 3	Write in your planner – Complete Animal & Human Features Complete all sections of the worksheet (instructions on actual sheet). Use a whole page in your sketchbook.