



ART AND DESIGN

Course Information

Students can choose from a wide range of Post 16 A level courses within Art. All the options are made up from a Portfolio/Personal Investigation which carries 60% of the total marks and the Externally Set Assignment which carries 40% of the total marks:

Fine Art

Students will explore different approaches to recording images, such as observation, analysis, expression and imagination. They will examine conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery or genres. Students will build on their existing skill base through different ways of working, such as using under-painting, glazing, wash and impasto and develop their understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure, colour, tone, texture, shape and form. They can work in any media from traditional drawing and painting to film, the emphasis of the course being on the creative development of the visual image.

Graphic Design

Students will develop their understanding of meaning, function, style, scale, colour and content in relation to the chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication. They will explore intended audiences or purposes and respond to an issue, concept or idea, working to a brief. Students will develop appropriate use of typography, signs and symbols.

3D Studies - Sculpture and Ceramics

Students will explore different approaches to constructing 3D artwork, through clay, wood, glass and found objects, they will develop their appreciation of solid, void, form, shape, texture, colour, decoration, surface treatment, scale, proportion, rhythm and movement in their chosen media. They will use of a variety of tools and equipment and experiment with working methods, such as model-making, constructing and assembling and raku fired ceramics.

Photography

Students will explore the use of digital and traditional cameras to develop a creative portfolio of work which shows their understanding of Photography within the arts and explores how they can respond to evidence contained in visual imagery. They will be expected to respond to a wide range of genres including Portraiture, Landscape, Still Life, Experimental and Documentary Photography. Within these areas of study, students will develop their ability to explore elements of visual language in the context of Photography. Students will develop an appreciation of technical skills such as composition, aperture, shutter speed, ISO and post production through practical, contextual, technical and skills based online learning activities.

The AQA Art and Design A Level specifications comprise 2 components:

Component 1 The Portfolio

This unit is a development of a coursework portfolio, showing work carried out during the course. The contents of the Portfolio will include contextual studies, examples of experiments with a variety of materials and ideas, records of relevant observations and the final outcome or series of outcomes. All the work produced for this unit will be marked holistically. The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques.

Each student must include in their portfolio:

- A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study.
- Critical/contextual work, which could include written material such as journals, reviews, reflections and evaluations, annotations and historical background material. Evidence may be included from books, journals, moving images, photographs, digital presentations and the internet, as well as studies made during a residency, site, gallery or museum visit.



- Sketchbooks, workbooks, journals. Alternatively, students may wish to present a series of related images mounted on sheets.
- Where appropriate to the student's area of study, test pieces, samples, storyboards and models.
- There is no restriction on the scale of work produced.
- A final personal investigation. This is a practical investigation supported by written material. Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. The investigation should be a coherent, in-depth study that demonstrates the student's ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. The investigation must show clear development from initial intentions to the final outcome or outcomes. It must include evidence of the student's ability to research and develop ideas and relate their work in meaningful ways to relevant critical/contextual materials.
- The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, photographers, designers or craftspeople. The written material must confirm understanding of creative decisions, providing evidence of all four assessment objectives by:
 - Demonstrating critical understanding of contextual and other sources.
 - Substantiating decisions leading to the development and refinement of ideas.
 - Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions by reflecting critically on practical work.
 - Making meaningful connections between, visual, written and other elements.

The written material must:

- Be a coherent and logically structured extended response of between 1000 and 3000 words of continuous prose.
- Include specialist vocabulary appropriate to the subject matter.
- Include a bibliography that, identifies contextual references from sources such as: books, journals, websites, through studies of others' work made during a residency, or on a site, museum or gallery visit.
- Be legible with accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar so that the meaning is clear.
- Annotation must not be included in the word count for the written material. Students can present the written material as a single passage of continuous prose or as a series of shorter discreet, but linked, passages of continuous prose incorporated within the practical work.

Assessment - Coursework 96 marks: Component 1 equals 60% of total marks.

Component 2 Externally set unit

The externally set assignment is a separate question for each endorsement containing a number of starting points. Students choose one. Students are expected to produce an extended unit of work which explores their chosen theme in depth, showing knowledge of materials and techniques and contextual studies. The externally set assignment will last from 1 February until the final supervised exam time is 15 hours. Students produce preparatory work and a finished piece or pieces of work.

Assessment – Externally set assignment 96 marks: Component 2 equals 40% of total marks.

Career Pathway

Jobs directly related to your Art study may include Art Therapist, Community Arts Worker, Fashion Designer, Fine Artist, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Print Maker, and Textile Designer.

Jobs where your course would be useful include Criminology, Advertising Account Executive, Arts Administrator, Multi-Media Specialist and Museum/Gallery Curator.

Should you like to receive any additional information on this course please contact Alan Naylor – Head of Department