

What Will I Be Studying?

Students will begin to build a repertoire of artistic techniques and skills from observational drawing, to printing and ceramics. Each term students will explore a different technique and process of making Art.

Students then will complete two Coursework Units, Natural Forms and Portraits. Both of these themes will provide an opportunity for each student to showcase their repertoire of skills whilst developing an understanding of how to visually analyse artists work and use this to help develop individual ideas.

The titles are intentionally broad, giving students freedom to develop their own expression as young artists. Both these units make up 60% of their overall GCSE grade and each lesson is considered to be controlled assessment which contributes entirely to their Art Coursework.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is rigorous and continual throughout each lesson and technique practiced. Along-side verbal feedback, each student is provided with a comprehensive tracker sheet, giving students an overview of the progress they have made and what further skills and analysis they need to show in order to move through each grade boundary.

At the end of each coursework unit there is a 5-hour mock exam. This enables students to make a final piece that provides a realisation of what they have learnt and explored through that unit. The mock exam also provides invaluable real exam experience. There will be regular moderation within the department that uses the Exam Board (EdExcel) criteria for the new 1-9 spec.

In the January of the final year, students will complete their GCSE by working to an Externally Set Assessment brief. This brief is set by the exam board and will be completed over a 10-week period. At the end of the 10 weeks, students will sit a 10-hour exam where they will make a final piece that encapsulates how they have explored the set brief. The exam is also moderated within the department using the criteria and objectives set by the exam board. The externally set assessment makes up the remaining 40% of their overall grade.

Homework should be for a minimum of 1-2hrs every week and will be an ongoing development of their research for the unit. Homework will be both practical and theory based, depending on the progress of each student.

Students will be expected to gather relevant images and information from the internet, as well as from magazines, newspapers, leaflets and postcards and visiting galleries and museums where possible.

Who Would Enjoy This Course?

Art and Design qualifications have a very large workload, so make sure you are ready to put in the hours for this course. If you enjoy the subject, then you will really enjoy the variety that it offers and universities like to see good grades in all subjects, so if you excel in Art then you would be wise to take it. Art will teach you to be self-disciplined and this in turn will help you focus on other subjects.

The skills you will need include:

- The ability to draw to a high standard
- Be able to think creatively and outside the box
- Be able to analyse, extract and speak about key information from a range of visual formats, using art vocabulary
- Be able to communicate ideas through drawing and making and be able to write creatively to support your visual work
- Be confident enough to display your work and discuss it in class

How Will This Course Help Me In The Future?

The demand for web designers, app designers, software designers, graphic designers, digital illustrators, multimedia artists, video producers, online publishers, animation artists, game designers and many other digital careers is undergoing unprecedented growth as technology grows.

Creative thinkers are in high demand and the only industries to have not been affected by changes in economy are the creative ones, offering continued stability, security and a growing number of job prospects for future Art students.

Universities like to see a range of subjects covered, and Art plays an important role in encouraging students to keep focused and well-rounded.