

Fine Art A Level

Course Description:

This course is primarily offered to students who would like to progress and continue with their art studies having successfully attained GCSE Art; however a student who has completed Applied Art and Design may also wish to opt for it.

During the first year you will develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence to gain experience and a deeper understanding of your specialism. This will prepare you to be able to respond to the Externally Set Task which is released in January. This controlled assessment provides a number of themes which give a choice of written and visual starting points and stimuli. The final outcome for this work is produced in a 10 hour exam period.

The second year will build upon the techniques learnt in the first year to explore personal ideas into more refined and finished pieces of work presented as a portfolio. You will also produce a written and illustrated personal study relating to the History of Art. You will be expected to develop a greater understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and contemporary society. Skills and techniques will be taught but the emphasis is on developing independence with the role of the teacher as one of support in the development of personal ideas.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Students entering onto the course will have passed GCSE Art with Grade 6 or above.

Please note that you cannot take this course and Art, Craft and Design; however it is possible to take this course and Photography.

Aims of the Course:

To develop:

- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- Investigative, analytical, experimental, technical and expressive skills
- Aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Independence of mind in developing personal ideas
- Experience of working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new technologies.
- Knowledge and understanding of the work of different art, craft and design practitioners and the cultural and historical context to their work.
- Knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures

Future Prospects:

Students wishing to further their Art studies after A Level would normally enter a One Year Foundation course at a local Further Education College or at the university of their choice before proceeding onto a degree course in some area of art and design (for example Fashion, Film and Video, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fine Art etc.).

For the vast majority of Universities and other courses art will be accepted as one of your A levels.

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Student Feedback:

“Art gave me everything, it enabled me to go into an area of work I love”

“Great environment to work in and all the art department are helpful at helping me do my best and explore new techniques. “

Features of the Course:

- Developing skills, creativity, imagination and independence through a response to a range of stimuli
- Explore personal development of ideas and to develop a deep understanding of the chosen specialism
- Develop greater understanding of the role of art and design in society and the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries
- Experiment with a wide range of media and techniques, both traditional and new technologies

Units

Component 1: Controlled assignment. 100% of AS. Students will be expected to develop an idea based on a choice of topics set by the exam board. You will have approximately 10 weeks to produce extensive preparation work before doing a 10 hour controlled test piece.

Component 1: Personal investigation (60% of A level) consisting of Coursework portfolio of practical work showing a personal project explored in depth, both visually through drawings, paintings etc, and also a related study (minimum word count 1000 words) illustrated essay on an area of art linking to the project. There is more emphasis in this unit on showing a personal ‘style’ developing through a number of outcomes.

Component 2: Externally Set task (40% of A level). This is similar to Unit 2 with the exception that the final controlled test piece is 15 hours long.

Methods of Assessment:

All work produced throughout the course will be marked and may be used for your final portfolio, understanding and being aware of how to select work is also an essential skill. Students will be assigned a personal mentor who will monitor and feedback regularly to ensure you are making progress. The mentor will also help support the development of a portfolio for art course applicants to take to interviews.