

Art, Craft and Design 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 Fine Art may also wish to opt for it. It is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media. You will be expected to produce a range of 2D and/or 3D work across two specialisms selecting from: Fine Art, Textile Design and Three-Dimensional Design. The first term is diagnostic and you do not have to decide which specialism you want to focus on until the December.

During the first term 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 develop your coursework exploring 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 a mentor providing one of support in the development of personal ideas.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. In addition students entering onto the A Level course will have passed GCSE Art with Grade 6 or higher. Please note that you cannot take this course and Fine Art; however it is possible to take this course and Photography. A strong command of English is also an advantage to support the in depth written analysis of art works.

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.

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

Student Feedback:

'All the staff in the art department are brilliant at giving feedback.'

'I am enjoying the variety of techniques and materials available. It's a diverse subject and you can explore such a range of media.'

'The skills and knowledge I have built up over the last years are all worthy to me now and will be in my future too.'

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
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A Level Units

Component 1: Personal investigation (60% of A level) consisting of Coursework portfolio of practical work demonstrating skills in two or more chosen specialisms showing a personal project explored in depth, both visually through drawings, paintings, etc, and also a related study (minimum word count 3000 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 Component 1 with the exception that the final controlled test piece is 15 hours long. In the January of Year 13 the paper is released, providing a choice of themes for students to select from. You will have approximately 10 weeks in which to produce extensive preparation work which is submitted along with the final outcome which is made in the 15 hour exam conditions.

Methods of Assessment:

All work produced throughout the course will be marked and assessed and may go towards your portfolio of work. 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.