



Nurturing Potential since 1611

ART & DESIGN: FINE ART/ PHOTOGRAPHY

The umbrella that is Art & Design encompasses a wide range of fields within it, namely: Art, Craft & Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Photography, and Three Dimensional Design. You may produce work under any of these titles. We usually have students working within Fine Art, or Photography. Grade B or above at GCSE is advisable since the level of technical skill required at A-Level is much higher than expectations at GCSE. The course is similarly structured to GCSE but work produced is of a higher standard and quality.

Course Structure & Options

All titles are marked against the same criteria and are therefore structured in the same way. The AS course is a one year course with 2 components.

Both the AS & A-Level courses are a natural extension to GCSE, following a very similar structure. They are comprised of a coursework component worth 60% and an externally set assignment worth 40%. Students are expected to demonstrate abilities to research and investigate a theme, explore and develop ideas through thorough experimentation with materials and techniques all of which culminates in a final piece that demonstrates skills learnt along the way.

At AS the coursework component is teacher led in order to ensure that students develop their knowledge of artists, styles, techniques and materials in greater depth. The externally set assignment is set by the board and begins on Feb 1st. Research and development work is done in lessons and is finalised in a 10hr exam at the end of the project (usually late April / early May. The work done in the exam should demonstrate levels of skill and connections to the work that has preceded it.

The A-Level is run over 2 years, also with 2 components. At A-Level, students will select from work completed over the 2 year course to present a body of work that is a personal investigation into something that they are particularly interested in.

The topic covered in the personal investigation is selected by students and supported by staff. Practical work is complemented by a written study and is worth 60% of the marks. The remaining 40% of the A-Level is the externally set assignment, starting on Feb 1st which in Year 13 leads to a 15 hour practical examination session in late April / early May. Students have the opportunity to enhance their technical skills and increase the maturity of their ideas and responses in much greater depth on a 2 year course.

Independent study through sketchbook work and gallery visits is an essential component of the course: Artists should be prepared to develop their powers of observation through constant drawing from first-hand experience; Photographers should be in the habit of taking photos wherever they are, finding constant inspiration in the world around them. The best students do this instinctively, as they seek out original primary source material; they enhance their own ideas and are able to make a more personal response. Study days at the major London Galleries, the Manchester Galleries and locations for extended drawing expeditions are undertaken.

Summary of Assessments

AS	
Component 1: Portfolio	60% of total AS marks
The portfolio will demonstrate the candidate's achievement in the work carried out at AS and will also include one themed project. Set and marked by the centre, moderated by AQA.	
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment	40% of total AS marks
A choice of starting points set by AQA and issued on February 1 st . Candidates produce preparatory work towards a ten hour supervised period. The assignment is then marked as a whole. Set by AQA, marked by the centre and moderated by AQA.	

A Level	
Component 1: Personal Investigation	60% of total A level marks
Candidates develop work in response to an idea, issue, concept or theme of their choice. This includes written material of a critical analytical nature of between 1000 and 3000 words. This supporting written work is linked to the candidate's practical work. Marked by the centre, moderated by AQA.	
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment	40% of total A level marks
A choice of starting points set by AQA and issued on February 1 st . Candidates produce a clearly defined selection of work which will lead to a finished piece or pieces, produced during a fifteen hour supervised period. The assignment is then marked as a whole. Set by AQA, marked by the centre and moderated by AQA.	

Why choose Art & Design?

Being creative, having ideas and being able to present your thoughts to others in an inspirational and engaging way is a vital life skill in any field. Many of the world's most successful people are great communicators and have confidence in their ideas and beliefs. They also demonstrate passion and recruit others to believe in their goals. All fields of Art & Design give you the skills to think for yourself, to make connections between many different aspects, to explore topics in depth and to experiment with the best ways to achieve your goals. These are highly sought after skills in the workplace. An A-Level in Art & Design is certainly recommended and sometimes required for specific career aspirations. These include:

Animation, Architecture, Art Editor, Art Historian, Art Restoration, Computer Games Design, Curation, Engineering, Event Design, Fashion Design, Film and Television, Freelance Professional Artist, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture/Design, Model making, Music Videos, Photography, Props & Special Effects, Set/Costume Design Teaching, Town and Country Planning, Web Design.