

Art & Design

ART DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Miss J Gear

Why choose the subject? A level Art & Design offers you the chance to develop your skills and creative ideas, and increase your confidence in self-expression and visual literacy. It provides a solid foundation for the following career opportunities:

Television, Film, Architecture, Interior Design, Illustration, Advertising, Publishing, Photography, Theatre and Expressive Arts, Fashion, Graphic Design, Art Education and Therapy, Art Galleries and Museums, Conservation of art works, Arts' Administration, Web Design, Computer Animation as well as professional artist or sculptor.

Who is eligible? Students who have completed GCSE Art and Design; it is essential that you achieve a grade 6 or above and a minimum of 6 in English Language to enable written work in sketchbooks and the related study component to be completed.

A LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: OCR	Description of Subject Content	<p><u>Personal Investigation</u></p> <p>Element 1: Practical Portfolio Students develop a personal response based on a particular project or theme, (practical but with supporting contextual research), which is sustained from April/May of Year 12 to the following February of Year 13.</p> <p>Work should include sketchbooks, observational studies, research on artists, exploration of ideas, techniques and media, final piece and evaluations.</p> <p>Element 2: Related study (minimum 1000 words.) Written and illustrated.</p>
	Weighting	60% of total A level mark
	Nature of Coursework	Internally set and marked, externally moderated. 120 marks.
	Description of Subject Content	<p><u>Externally set Task from 1st February:</u></p> <p>Work submitted: Sketchbooks, observational and preparatory studies, development of ideas, exploration of media, final piece and evaluations.</p>
	Length of Exam	15 hours (plus approximately 10 week preparatory period)
Weighting Nature of Exam	40% of total A level mark Externally set and moderated. 80 marks	

STUDENT VIEW

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“Art is by far my favourite subject at A Level because although it requires dedication, I find it the most relaxing as there’s always a friendly atmosphere and you get to spend all of your lesson time making stuff, what could be better? Another great thing about the course is that it gives you so much freedom to explore whatever you want and even when you have set titles to choose from, it’s really interesting to see the different routes that people take from the same topic title. I personally find it fascinating to see people’s different thought processes and ways of executing a problem, which is what makes everyone’s work so personal to them. For example, one of my topic titles was ‘Urban Life’ and within that I ended up exploring the use of litter and chewing gum in my work, which just shows that you really are encouraged to be as inventive as you like with your ideas and use of media.

Another thing I really appreciate about the course is the dedication that the teachers have and how willing they are to help and give advice and it’s clear how much they really care about their students. Since art classes tend to be smaller than those of more popular subjects, such as maths, you get a really close knit group which is nice and it also allows you to have a lot of one to one time with your teachers, to explain your ideas and receive a lot of advice and guidance. The teachers are also really willing to help out with things outside of A Level art, such as giving feedback on personal statements and advising what artwork to include in your portfolio which is all extremely useful for the next step after A Level.

However, one of my favourite things has to be looking back on all the work you’ve done and seeing how much you have improved because you really do improve a lot over the two years. You really get to appreciate how much everyone has achieved at the end of each year when everyone displays their artwork at an exhibition in the hall; parents and friends are invited to come and view it as well which makes for a lovely celebration of how far everyone has come. So if you are at all creative and considering taking art, I thoroughly recommend that you do because it’s a lot of fun and I’ve found it extremely valuable”.

LM

