



Art and Design

QUALIFICATION: A-LEVEL

Awarding Body:

Students follow the AQA Specification at both AS and A2 Level

Length of Course:

2 years

AS

This course is made up of 3 units which comprise of:

Coursework Portfolio (60% of AS mark)

- Students produce a portfolio of work from school set starting points, topics and Currently these themes are 'Portraits and the Figure' and 'Structures.' Both topics allow students a vast degree of individuality and creativity whilst enabling them to explore a range of materials and processes relevant to their personal intentions. The main focus of this is the inclusion of work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills whilst working towards a personalised outcome.
- Students produce and select for submission a body of work which reflects their best artistic practice while simultaneously answering the grading criteria of the course. Staff facilitate this learning by guiding students and highlighting areas

within their portfolio which may need strengthening, ultimately assisting each student to achieve a high level of work which can be examined.

- The Portfolio is assessed holistically through all of the four assessment objectives. Students are given a range of opportunities to respond to these objectives in personally creative ways, open to their own artistic Completion of the portfolio is at the end of January ready for the start of students AS exam.

Exam - Externally Set Task (40% of AS marks)

- This is set and guided by the exam board and is given to all students on 1st Feb or the nearest opportunity after this point. This takes the form of another project, very similar to that explored by students in their coursework module. There are a series of 'open' questions which students can respond to. They select one question from a series. This choice allows them to gear their exam to an area of study which they are particularly adept at and work to their strengths.
- Students have a limited preparatory period between 1st Feb and the end of April to work on their exam module. This includes class time as well as any study time and at home. At the end of April students are given two full days off timetable in which to complete a final outcome for their selected exam question. This constitutes the 10 hours supervised time set by the exam board. At the end of these two days their exam work is complete and may not be worked on. This is collected and stored in the department ready for assessment and moderation.
- During the first two weeks of May students may look back into their coursework and complete any outstanding areas of work. After this point work is assessed internally within the department and a visiting moderator verifies these marks. The visit of the moderator signifies the formal end of students AS course and the A2 course begins instantaneously.

A2

Personal Investigation (60% of marks)

- Students submit one major project that has personal significance to They decide this topic in conversation with their subject teacher, after the completion of their year 12 studies. This topic is heavily personalised and acts as a portfolio in which students can explore a theme related directly to a university course or area of study in further education, for example, Architecture. The subsequent portfolio produced can then accompany students to university interviews to demonstrate their high ability and level of creative work in a variety of disciplines.
- Their Personal Investigation is also accompanied by a piece of related critical writing. This draws upon significant artists or periods in Art history which relate to their chosen theme. The essay should be between 3000 and 3500 This assignment acts as an academic accompaniment to the creative characteristics addressed in their portfolio. It is assessed as part of their whole coursework under the umbrella of assessment objective one.

Exam - Externally Set Task (40% of marks)

- The format of the exam is identical to that studied at AS level. Students select one starting point from a question paper set by the board and are given a set period of preparatory time in which to complete it. This begins

on 1st Feb or at the nearest point after this date. Between February and April they work on their preparatory work in their sketchbook, utilizing class time, study periods and any gained time at home.

- At the end of the exam period students are given 15 hours of controlled time to realise their ideas into final This takes the form of three days off timetable, normally at the end of April.
- The end of the 15 hours exam time signifies the end of the entire A level course. Some changes and additions may be added to students coursework modules but assessment of work begins in the middle of May internally within the department and subsequently this is moderated.

The setup of the AS and A2 course is very similar to a GCSE course in an Art subject. Students who have this prior knowledge often find it easier to manage time and commitments as they have learned from the GCSE expectations. The department aims to undertake a continental tour as often as is practical to allow students to view work in some of the greatest galleries in Europe and to be inspired by the places they visit. In recent years we have visited Amsterdam, London, Paris, Barcelona and Venice. We believe this AQA course to be the most challenging and rewarding for all students wishing to embark upon a creative career path. Its breadth and depth have significant impact across a multitude of further education subject areas and establishments. This is reflected in the university entries and submissions in recent years. We have had students apply to study at some of the most prestigious art schools across the UK such as the Glasgow School of Art and Central St. Martins, whilst also encouraging students into more local universities and courses including, Sunderland, Newcastle, Teesside and The Cleveland College of Art and Design.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is desirable but not essential to have a Grade 4 at GCSE

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SIXTH FORM VISIT

GIRLS' SCHOOL VISIT

BOYS' SCHOOL VISIT