

Art, Craft and Design

Qualification: A-Level Art
Additional Entry Information: GCSE Art B grade ideally, however we will accept any student on a probationary basis (7 weeks- one half term) who shows a commitment to and love of the subject.

Speak to **Mrs J Gold** for more information.

What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?

Before undertaking AS and Advanced Art and design, you should ideally have followed the GCSE Art course. This will have given you experience of using Art materials and processes together with some knowledge of contemporary and historical Art and design. We do however accept students who haven't followed GCSE art and you should discuss this with Art staff.

What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?

The AS course covers a range of Art based practical activities. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences in the first half term where we undertake a mini Art Foundation skills course. Students then progress with their own lines of enquiry; there is a wide range of options available (Painting and drawing/ Printmaking/ Sculpture/ Alternative Media **etc.**). Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to the full A Level or employment. You will exhibit your submission at the end of the course for assessment.

The A Level course in Year 13 has a coursework element and Exam. The coursework consists of a Personal Investigation incorporating two linked elements: Practical work and Personal Study. Students identify areas for study and produce sustained research leading to a final practical outcome plus a written piece, which will inform the practical element.

The Exam is set in February of Yr13, students have a preparatory period of about 6 school weeks and a 15 hour practical exam to produce a final outcome. Both units of work are exhibited at the end of the course for assessment.

What sort of student is this course suitable for?

Students who undertake the course should have a commitment to, and a love of the subject, and feel motivated to develop their visual language skills and express their ideas through a variety of media. Students should demonstrate an enjoyment at looking at other practitioners work through gallery and museum visits as well as first hand drawing of the world around them. Students will show an inquisitive mind, they may use a camera to record alongside traditional and new media.



What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?

- Sketchbook work such as drawing, painting, and mixed media work looking at first hand reference material.
- Research and present findings on the work of other practitioners – making connections.
- Photography – recording the world around you
- Gallery & museum visits

What is the course content and how is this assessed?

AS Art: Unit 1- Personal Creative Enquiry (100% - AS Level or 40% A Level)

Internally set, assessed and externally moderated. During this unit you will spend the first half term (8 weeks approx.) carrying out a mini foundation course. You will explore the Formal Elements – Line, Texture, Pattern & Colour and new ways of working. You will then be given an open-ended theme where you will develop ideas for a final piece through studies in a variety of media, reference to other practitioners and develop the idea to a personal outcome, which you will produce in your chosen media. An end of year exhibition celebrates students' submissions.

A Level Art: Unit 2 -Personal Investigation (36% of full A Level qualification)

Internally set, assessed and externally moderated. Consists of two integrated constituent parts:

1. A major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance.
2. An extended written element of 1000 words minimum, which may contain images and texts and must clearly relate to practical and theoretical work using an appropriate working vocabulary and specialist terminology.

Both the practical/theoretical work and the written element will be assessed together using the assessment objectives. The theme chosen for study will be chosen by students with guidance from staff. Areas of interest identified in Unit 1 usually inform Unit 2 although this can differ with students' interests.

A Level Art: Unit 3- Externally Set Assignment (24% of full A Level qualification)

Externally set, internally assessed and externally moderated. Consists of two parts:

1. Preparatory study period

The Externally Set Assignment (Exam paper) is released to students from February in the A2 year and will consist of a series of visual and written stimuli. One of the stimuli is to be selected by students and used as a starting point from which to elicit a personal response. Responses are developed during the preparatory study period. They should take the form of critical, practical and theoretical preparatory work/supporting studies, which inform the resolution of ideas in the 15 hours sustained focus (Exam).



2. Sustained focus work (15 hour Exam)

The resolution of students' ideas from the preparatory work must be completed during the designated 15 hours and they must show how their planning relates to the outcome/s. The 15 hour period must be completed under supervised conditions.

Both the preparatory work and sustained focus work are assessed together, using the assessment objectives.

What could students go on to do at the end of this course?

For students wishing to pursue their studies in Art and Design, students may go straight to degree level study although the recommended next step is an Art Foundation year. Progress to this college based course is on the evidence of a sound portfolio of work at interview. Interviews for the Foundation course take place after Christmas in Year 13. Following the foundation year, students can then choose to study at degree level one of the many exciting and rewarding fields of Art and Design, e.g.: Fine Art, 3D Design, Fashion Design, Textile / Interior Design, Graphics, Illustration, Ceramics, Metalwork or glass forming, Film, Animation, etc. The choice is varied and students should consult their teacher for further information.

The AS / A Level course in Art and Design is stimulating and rewarding in its own right, whether or not the student is specifically aiming at a career in this field. It is a recognised qualification for entry into Higher Education.

