



AS/A Level Art & Design (Fine Art) Course Outline

Overview

Students following this course will be encouraged and supported in developing their practical art skills which allow them to creatively explore and respond to their personal experience through their artwork. They will be guided in producing practical and critical/contextual work in areas including drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, printmaking and digital media. There will be an integrated approach to practical work and critical investigation with students required to independently research, develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to the artists and styles of art that they study. The art department provides many of the basic materials for the course, students are required to purchase sketchbooks, pencils, paints and brushes and other additional materials (canvas, wire) as appropriate. Visits will be organized to museums, galleries and exhibitions. There will also be visits to other relevant sites of visual interest where students will have the opportunity to sketch and to gather relevant resource materials. Life-drawing sessions will be available for students as an extra curricular opportunity and practising artists will regularly be invited to run workshops to extend students' experience. A considerable amount of independent personal study will be required and Art students will be able to access the sixth form art studio at any time.

Course Structure & Content

AS:

Unit 1

Coursework

Themed project based mainly on taught elements and developing ideas. Students undertake a structured and progressive exploration of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture & digital media, making links to the work of others as appropriate.

Unit 2

Externally set assignment

Timed test set by the examination board. The emphasis of this unit will be the development of ideas. Candidates select one of five starting points. 4 weeks' preparatory studies. 5 hour timed test.

A2:

Unit 3

Personal study

This is a practical unit with written elements. Students will undertake a self-directed study based on an idea, issue, concept or theme, of personal interest. They will undertake practical and critical/contextual research, evaluation and analysis of an aspect of art based on or inspired by previous coursework. This is supported by an essay of 1000 words or a powerpoint presentation and leads to a finished piece or series of pieces.

Unit 4

Externally set assignment

Timed test set by the examination board. Candidates select one of eight starting points. 4 weeks' preparatory studies. 15 hour timed test.

Assessment:

All units are centre assessed and moderated by the examination board. Students are expected to demonstrate a response to all of the assessment objectives. Assessment Objectives for AS & A2 are the same– method of assessment and/or exam board assessment criteria

Assessment Objectives (AQA):

Having followed the course students should be able to:

- Develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding
- Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops
- Record in visual and/or other forms ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on their work in progress
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral and elements

Entry qualifications

A grade B in GCSE Art/Textiles or Graphics is normally required. Admission is conditional upon the production of a portfolio of work that demonstrates an appropriate level of skill and commitment.

Career Prospects

Applicable for students interested in careers directly or indirectly related to Art & Design. Many specialist applications in commercial and artistic sectors from product design to high fashion, interior design to digital design. Other opportunities include arts administration, art education and some areas of the media. Students can progress to higher education courses in Art & Design including Foundation courses leading to a degree in a variety of specialisms.