

ART & DESIGN

“Art is a step from what is obvious and well-known toward what is arcane and concealed” Khalil Gibran

Current Teaching Staff:

Mr S D Smedley - Head of Department
Miss Z Malone, Ms E Wildman

Examination board and syllabus: OCR Fine Art

Entrance requirement: Grade 6 at GCSE Art and Design in any discipline (minimum)

Students will straight away begin to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to apply in A2 Art and Design, where there is Coursework (60%) and an Externally Set Task (EST) (40%).

Work produced for both Coursework and the EST of 15 hours will be judged on the following four distinct assessment objectives (AOs): **Developing, Exploring, Recording and Presenting**. Each carries the same weighting of 20 marks. Students are encouraged to follow their own interests in developing work in terms of theme, artistic reference subject matter, stylistic approach and scale, though they will be encouraged to take creative risks and discover new and novel methods whilst proceeding under teacher guidance.

Coursework – more detail.

Formally called a 'Personal Investigation' (PI) (60%). This will entail the production of a portfolio of visual investigations and final pieces following a negotiated theme. As an additional part of this, students must complete a 'Related Study'(RS) which entails the production of a 1000-3000 word illustrated essay on an artist(s) relating directly to their practical work.

Exam – more detail.

The EST at A2 (40%) consists of open-ended starting points provided by the examination board on 1st February each year and from which the students choose one to pursue. The final piece(s) for this will be conducted under examination conditions over 15 hours in duration after a period of 'preparatory time' determined by the centre.

Students' preparatory work and final piece(s) for both Coursework and EST will be assessed internally and moderated externally.

The course at A2 is, as much as possible, 'team-taught'. We believe that this helps engender dynamism and openness in the subject. Difference of opinion and variance of approach between teaching staff is to be expected, accepted and embraced as a vital component of the creative process.

Drawing and painting constitutes the bulk of work and this will be completed in a variety of media and scale, but sculptural work, photography, art history research and note taking are all vital aspects of supporting work undertaken by students. Investigations are 'on-going' throughout the year and, therefore, the traditional place of homework is taken up by further research and continuation of visual investigations. It is crucial that this independent work is carried on beyond lessons.

The Art Department is on 'Open-Access' at lunchtimes and pupils may use its facilities during this time and if they have a 'free' period.

Number of Unit	% of A2	Coursework / Examination	Length of Time	Examination / Coursework entered
H601/1 (A2 Fine Art PI)	60%	Fine Art PI	Coursework is on-going throughout Year 12 and Year 13	June of Year 13
H601/2 (A2 Fine Art EST)	40%	Fine Art EST	15 hours under exam conditions plus 'prep' time from 1 st Feb each year	June of Year 13

We are now also able to offer students the opportunity to study for an AS in Art in Year 12 should they wish to. This is entirely based upon an internally set portfolio project that commences in September each year. More details on this option can be given to those interested by directly coming and speaking to the HOD (Mr Smedley) at Open Evenings or, for those in TGGs already, in lessons.

All Art Students need to be self-motivated and enthusiastic. They should be able to pursue project themes with a good degree of independence and self-reliance. Pupils need to be ambitious in their thinking, experimental, inquisitive and self-questioning. They must be prepared to put in significant numbers of hours of work beyond the timetabled lessons (in line with other A Level subjects) to achieve at the higher levels in the subject.

Students will need to:	Compulsory	Optional
Attend extra sessions before Examinations	X	
Read widely around the subject	X	
Make extensive notes	X	
Carry out detailed revision for regular tests beyond public examinations		X
Be willing to lead class discussions		X

CAREERS

Universities and employers value highly the 'transferable' skills that come from an education in the creative field and the ability to 'Think outside the box'. These courses and careers may be far removed from Art and Design itself. Previous students have gone on to courses including Medicine, Dentistry and other Science related degrees, to name but a few.

Taking art related courses and careers more closely, past students have secured positions in Art and Design teaching, Museum/Curatorship and other educational fields, Illustration, animation, fashion, architecture as well as becoming practising Artists in their own right.