

ART AND DESIGN GCSE

Examination Board – AQA

5 periods per 2 weeks

Course Content:

The primary aim of our GCSE art course is to ignite a passion for the visual world in which we all live. Gaining an understanding of the visual codes, symbols and messages is key to understanding the world around us, as well as allowing us to communicate effectively within it. With the busy lives that we lead, the ability to creatively express ourselves, our thoughts and opinions is a rewarding and fulfilling experience. As well as the personal gains, it also offers a multitude of transferable skills into a wide range of job roles, whether they are creatively centred or not. Analysis, problem solving, planning, reviewing and refining, practical explorations, creative thought processing and the effective communication of ideas are all skills that are required in a wide range of job roles.

The way in which we help you to do this is by developing and refining your creative and technical skills when working with a wide range of 2D and 3D materials. You will be encouraged to work with a variety of different media and explore a range of approaches whilst developing your own ideas about your work and its direction. Your practical explorations could include:

- 2D explorations – drawing, painting, oil pastel, chalk pastel, ink and stick and many more;
- textiles – surface texture, pattern design, garment production (with an artistic focus, not for practical function);
- photography – dark room and digital;
- sculpture – clay, wire, mod-roc and many more.

You will work towards creating a final piece that will culminate your project journey and showcase your skills and ideas. At the end of year 11 your portfolio of work will be displayed within school and during a celebratory exhibition night for family and friends to view.

Assessment

There is no written examination.

The course is graded to the following weightings:

Portfolio of work:

The start of year 10 until January in year 11 (60%).

Externally set task:

This runs from January in year 11 until April in year 11 (40%).

All of the work that you produce throughout year 10 and year 11 will be assessed so it is vital that you maintain a strong work ethic. It does also mean that your GCSE in art will be complete before you commence your academic exams, giving you additional time during this busy period to focus on revision.

Style of learning

As well as the practical explorations, work will be supported by an investigation into the work of artists, designers and crafts people which will involve some written work in the form of notes and annotation. Students are expected to keep a sketchbook for collecting visual information and the recording of ideas relevant to projects. This is seen as essential to the course and to your full development as a student of art and design. Developing your own ideas is encouraged and an

independent approach often produces the best outcomes and enables students to achieve the higher grades.

Progression

The GCSE qualification enables you to compile a folder of work that would allow entry into further education or a related industry. It is also necessary for progression to AS/A level art and design and useful for AS/A level photography (as well as numerous design technology courses) which in turn are required for entry onto higher education courses in art and design. The study of art and design prepares you for a large number of jobs and careers.

Official statistics published by the government in 2012 revealed that the UK's creative industries, are now worth £71.4 billion per year to the UK economy – generating 1.68 million jobs in 2012, (5.6 per cent of UK jobs).

Some of these include:

- artist;
- architecture;
- advertising and marketing;
- crafts;
- design: product, graphic and fashion design;
- film, television and music industries;
- IT, software and computer services;
- publishing;
- museums, galleries and libraries;
- music, performing and visual arts.

It is recommended that many of these career routes are underpinned by a study of art at GCSE and beyond.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/creative-industries-worth-8million-an-hour-to-uk-economy>).

Art is a highly enjoyable course and if you chose to study with us at GCSE level, we very much look forward to working with you.