

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - AQA A Level Fine Art

Fine Art at A Level is a subject that recognises that individuals need to be able to express their creativity & develop a range of problem solving skills in practical situations. The course is designed to develop personal responses to observations, experiences, environments and cultures, celebrating their individuality and strengths. It encourages personal learning through enquiry into Art and Design and enjoyment of its application in the real world, along with the acquisition of lifelong learning and thinking skills. This is done through careful guidance and individual target setting.

We have devised and developed specialist workshops in printmaking, photography, oil-painting and ceramics. Students will be expected to put up their own exhibitions at the end of Year 1 & 2 in the gallery space in preparation for marking.

From these workshops and individual interests students then develop a personal investigation and portfolio which really expresses their own individuality and response.

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA A Level Art & Design (Fine Art)

Why should I study this course? -

The course is extremely exciting & personal to the student. They can really express their individual interests, views, specialisms & opinions throughout their work.

Gallery Visits and working with practicing Artists- we aim to take students out about three times in each of the years, these trips might include a visit to London art galleries, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Chesterfield College & Chatsworth. Students also get the opportunity to work with visiting artists such as Helenaire Sharpley who sculpts with wire and Libby Pattison a ceramicist. We also enter students' work for local and national competitions to enable them to exhibit their work outside of the academy setting. We encourage past students to come and talk about what they have gone on to do with Art and Design, they bring in their work and are happy to help with ideas or concepts and answer any questions about what they are doing.

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Who is suitable to study this course? - What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

Creatively minded individuals with enthusiasm for creative thinking and pushing your own boundaries. You must be enthusiastic, prepared to really explore an idea or concept and be able to work with determination and perseverance. You will have timetabled lessons and will also be encouraged to come and use the space in your free periods, an equal amount of time is expected to be spent on your studies out of lessons as in lessons. GCSE Fine Art or Photography would be a good foundation for embarking on this course but it isn't essential.

Careers that the study of Art supports include:

Illustrator, Branding designer, Web design, Town planning, Teaching, Event planner, Jeweller, Prop maker, Animator, Game designer, Online content creator, Film maker, Photographer, Cartographer, Fashion designer, Graphic Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Merchandiser. There are far too many careers to list here!

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

GCSE Fine Art or Photography would be a good foundation for embarking on this course but it isn't essential and an individual discussion with the Head of Department looking at your Art or photography work currently may be necessary if not taken at GCSE.

How is the Course Delivered? -

Students have 5 hours of Timetabled lessons with specialist Art & Photography teachers. In addition to this students are required to complete 4 hours of personal study time and are encouraged to do this within the department to make best use of resources, materials and teacher support.

Year 1 - Initially students will undertake specialist workshops in printmaking, photography, oil-painting and ceramics. Students will be expected to put up their own exhibitions at the end of Year 1 & 2 in the gallery space in preparation for marking. Extended project with coherent preparatory studies, leading to an appropriate conclusion. Marked internally - some work may be used to support students year 2 portfolios but Year 1 is purely about building skills, confidence and understanding for year 2. There is no formal qualification gained at the end of this year.

Year 2 - Extended project (Personal investigation) with coherent preparatory studies leading to an appropriate conclusion. 3000 words supporting written study. Marked internally / externally moderated.

Exam - Paper issued 1st of February, initial preparatory period of about 8 weeks, 15 hour exam (final piece) 15 hours over 3 days. Marked internally / externally moderated.

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Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Specialist workshops	Reviewing Year 12 work and identifying strengths & passions. Research ideas for personal investigation.
Autumn 2	Specialist workshops	Embarking on an individual practical response for the personal investigation.
Spring 1	Development of individual themes - Starting from 'What it means to be Human?'	Development of practical exploration and experimentation of personal investigation & written element.
Spring 2	Development of individual themes - Starting from 'What it means to be Human?'	Externally Set Exam paper - Starts 1st February. Students choose & develop from a starting point on the paper. The minimum 8 week preparatory period.
Summer 1	Planning and creating a final outcome.	Externally Set Exam paper continues and students plan then create a final response in 15 hours exam period. Students produce a final exhibition of their work.
Summer 2	Gallery exhibition & researching ideas for Year 13 personal investigation.	Centre Marks are submitted by 31st May and external moderation of centre after this.

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How is the Course Assessed?

Internally assessed at regular intervals throughout the year which will inform Praising Stars data & also to prepare students for work being externally moderated against an assessment criteria in Year 2.

Year 2

March/April Year 13 Internal & External assessment and moderation of personal Investigation.

Work will be assessed at regular intervals throughout the year also.

Exam

March/April Year 13

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key assessment objectives in Art are

AO1 – Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

AO2 – Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? - We recommend virtual Gallery visits if not able to visit in person. A few suggestions could be Tate Modern & Tate Britain, The Saatchi Gallery, The National Portrait Gallery, The photographers Gallery & The V & A museum.