Art and Design A Level

Course Description:

This is a Fine Art Course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of processes and media. The half term is diagnostic and will enable you to explore different techniques and to build on skills developed at GCSE.

During the first term you will develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence to gain experience and a deeper understanding of your specialism. This will prepare you to be able to develop your coursework exploring personal ideas into more refined and finished pieces of work presented as a portfolio.

You will also produce a written and illustrated personal study relating to the History of Art. You will be expected to develop a greater understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and contemporary society. Skills and techniques will be taught but the emphasis is on developing independence with the role of the teacher as a mentor providing one of support in the development of personal ideas.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 in Art. At least a Grade 5 in English is advisable.

Aims of the Course:

To develop:

- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- Investigative, analytical, experimental, technical and expressive skills
- Aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Independence of mind in developing personal ideas
- Experience of working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new technologies.
- Knowledge and understanding of the work of different art, craft and design practitioners and the cultural and historical context to their work.
- Knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures.

Future Prospects:

Students wishing to further their Art studies after A Level would normally enter a One Year Foundation course at a local Further Education College or at the university of their choice before proceeding onto a degree course in some area of art and design, for example Fashion, Film and Video, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fine Art. For the vast majority of university and other courses, art will be accepted as one of your A levels.

Art and Design A Level

Student Feedback:

'All the staff in the art department are brilliant at giving feedback.'
'I am enjoying the variety of techniques and materials available. It's a diverse subject and you can explore such a range of media.'
'The skills and knowledge I have built up over the last years are all worthy to me now and will be in my future too.'

Features of the Course:

- Developing skills, creativity, imagination and independence through a response to a range of stimuli
- Explore personal development of ideas and to develop a deep understanding of the chosen specialism
- Develop greater understanding of the role of art and design in society and the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries
- Experiment with a wide range of media and techniques, both traditional and new technologies
-

A Level Units

Component 1: Personal investigation (60% of A level) consisting of Coursework portfolio of practical work based on a theme of your choosing explored in depth, both visually through drawings, paintings, etc, and also a related study (minimum word count 3000 words) illustrated essay on an area of art linking to the project. There is more emphasis in this unit on showing a personal 'style' developing though a number of outcomes.

Component 2: Externally Set task (40% of A level). This is similar to Component 1 with the exception that the final controlled test piece is 15 hours long. In the January of Year 13 the paper is released, providing a choice of themes for students to select from. You will have approximately 10 weeks in which to produce extensive preparation work which is submitted along with the final outcome which is made in the 15 hour exam conditions.

Methods of Assessment:

All work produced throughout the course will be marked and assessed and may go towards your portfolio of work. Students will have two teachers who will monitor and feedback regularly, to ensure you are making progress. They will also help support the development of a portfolio for art course applicants to take to interviews.