

# textiles.

A Level Preparation Pack



## Overview

Our Textiles department is very much looking forward to welcoming you in September. Textiles is a broad subject dedicated to nurturing each students' personal skill set and special interests. Some students take this subject because they want to maintain and develop their creativity - a vital quality in any work environment. Others leave this A Level to pursue higher level creative training and careers in a broad range of areas such as textile design, mixed media craft, fashion design and fashion marketing and promotion.

To help you practice and develop your existing skills, I have set out a range of resources for you to explore and engage with over the next few months so that you prepare for September and feel confident that you have chosen a subject that is right for you.



**Angela Watson**  
Head of Art & Design

## Activities

### Start a research 'notebook' – digital if possible

Build up a resource that brings together stick and paste images (labelled) of the pieces and collections you like the most, as well as written information about the ideas behind the work. You can use this yourself and in conversation with me when we meet, to show me what you like and where you'd like to go with your own work.

### Make something using upcycled / recycled materials

Sustainability and up/recycling are becoming increasingly important to successful creatives. Showing that you can be creative with materials you have to hand is also a great way of developing your resourcefulness. Textile artist Louise Baldwin - <http://www.62group.org.uk/artist/louise-baldwin/> - uses materials found in her home to create beautiful collaged and applied pieces. Fashion designers like those found in this article <https://www.fashionrevolution.org/usa-blog/7-fashion-brands-that-are-designing-out-waste/> show how recycling can be at the forefront of contemporary practice.

### Learn or practice traditional textiles skills

Contemporary artists, designers and makers often produce new and original versions of traditional textiles techniques. This could be the perfect time to learn to knit or crochet, or practice and broaden your range of hand stitching and embellishing skills. There are great 'how to' videos on YouTube to help get you started.

### Practice your drawing and mark making

Drawing from life – looking at an object right in front of you and taking the time to capture it as accurately as possible in whatever media you prefer, or using pens and paint to create abstract marks and patterns that explore colour and scale relationships, are both great ways of building your confidence and will develop the skills you will use to design future work.

## Useful Websites / Instagram

Whatever your favourite artists, makers and designers are now, you need to build on this to make sure you are aware of what is going on in the contemporary creative world. You will often be creating your own work in response to the work of others so the more you are aware of, the more varied and interesting your work will be.

Avoid random searches online for textiles work – anyone can post their work and some is quite poor! Look at the good work...

- <http://www.62group.org.uk>
- [www.textileartist.org](http://www.textileartist.org)
- <http://www.arttextilesmadeinbritain.co.uk>
- <http://www.studio21textileart.co.uk>
- <https://www.prismtextiles.co.uk>

If you like the idea of designing textiles for interiors, then doing a google search for 'interior textile designers' or 'interior textile trends' will give interesting results.

Those interested in fashion need look no further than <https://www.vogue.co.uk>. This website will show you current trends and catwalk collections, as well as those from previous years. From here you can go to fashion shows in YouTube – it's so important to see how the clothes move and look in three dimensions! – and also move on to specific designer websites.

Following fashion designers or brands on Instagram is also advised, as well as the sites set up by fashion departments at universities: **@bafcsm**, **@mmu.fashionpromotion**, **@uclanfashiondesign** are just 3 examples. See what students actually produce at University and use this work to give you ideas about your own.

## Film & YouTube

- <https://www.esquire.com/uk/culture/a31730977/best-fashion-films/>

- Catwalk shows – look for your favourites and those who are award winners – British Designer of the Year: Menswear for example.

- Films that have won an Academy Award or BAFTA Award for costume design.

- Any films that have a strong and distinctive visual style could actually inspire your work. We recently had a student design a brilliant collection inspired by 1970's horror films...

## Course Specifications

Download AQA Art & Design specification - <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-SP-2015.PDF>