Art and Design
Fine Art A Level (AQA)

Program Overview

We strive to develop independent and creative thinkers. Problem solving and the ability to work and think independently are key skills. An A Level in a creative subject will provide opportunities for learners to apply their ideas and thoughts creatively. These skills, important as they are to life generally, can be applied to any future career path that our learners decide to follow.

Course Structure

Portfolio of skills and techniques: You will learn a range of skills and techniques whilst developing work on a theme of your choice. Techniques and processes; Drawing techniques, Painting, Advancing and receding colours, Printmaking, including press, Lino, photography, Sculpture and other appropriate media and processes.

You will develop skills in a variety of ways including through:

- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts in the chosen area of study within fine art
- historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created
- continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to fine art
- a working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen area of fine art.

You will produce a personal and meaningful response/responses by creating mini outcomes throughout your development, making work which is informed by the work of others, developing more independent ideas and making final pieces which reflect your development and journey through the unit.

Course Units

Component 1: Personal investigation 60%

For your unit 1 coursework component, you must complete a Personal investigation of an idea, issue, concept or theme of your own choice, which as well as the practical journey, also Includes a 1000–3000-word essay.

Component 2 – Externally set assignment 40%

The AQA issued Externally Set Assignment will consist of a paper with a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. You are required to select one. You will be provided with the starting points on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date and produce a body of work to support your chose question following all the assessment objectives After the preparatory period, you must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. In the 15 hours you must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by your preparatory work.

Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

Where does this course lead?

An A-level in Art and Design can lead to university degrees in a wide range of creative fields like Graphic Design, Architecture, Fashion, and Fine Art. It also serves as a strong foundation for careers directly in the creative industries, such as graphic designer, illustrator, animator, and set designer. Beyond creative jobs, the subject develops valuable transferable skills like creativity, resilience, and problem-solving, which are sought after in many professions.

Entry Requirements: Minimum grade to study A Level Art Grade 5+

