

KS4 GRAPHIC DESIGN CURRICULUM PLANNING MAP

What is Graphic Design at KS4?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Graphic Design is designed for learners who want an introduction to graphic design that includes a vocational and project-based element. This qualification aims to focus on the study of the graphic design sector, offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge and to provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills. Qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the graphic design sector or progress onto further study.

Qualification and Requirements for Achievement

To earn the Level 1/2 Technical Award in Graphic Design, students must successfully complete two mandatory assessments covering six content areas.

Content Areas:

- Content area 1 - Components of graphic design 30
- Content area 2 - Work of graphic designers 10
- Content area 3 - Requirements of a graphic design brief 15
- Content area 4 - Planning, development and experimentation 30
- Content area 5 - Graphic design production 20
- Content area 6 - Design, present and promote graphic design work 15

External Assessment:

- Written exam (90 minutes)
- Worth 40% of the final grade
- Taken at the end of Year 11

Internal Assessment:

- Non-exam assessment (NEA project, 17.5 hours)
- Worth 60% of the final grade
- Begins in October of Year 11

Grades available:

- Level 1: Pass, Merit, Distinction
- Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

YEAR 11:

Learners begin Year 11 by preparing for their mock exam at the end of October. This includes revisiting all six content areas and practicing exam-style questions. They will then receive their NEA (non-exam assessment) project brief, set by the exam board. Learners are allocated 17.5 hours to complete the 7 required tasks. After completing the NEA, the remaining time in the year is dedicated to preparing for the final written exam.

YEAR 10:

As learners progress, they will be encouraged to work more independently, with reduced teacher support to help build confidence and readiness for Year 11. They will study content areas 3, 4 and 5 in greater depth. Learners will complete a mock exam with teacher guidance to help prepare for the final assessments. They will also work through all seven NEA (non-exam assessment) tasks, receiving feedback to help them improve. The NEA project will be based on a previous brief prepared by the exam board. This project involves using a range of techniques, tools and resources such as digital design tools—while applying various graphic design processes.

YEAR 9:

Learners begin the course by exploring what graphic design is and learning about six of the graphic design components. There is a strong emphasis on content areas 1 and 2. Learners will understand how to use visual design language and how to apply graphic design principles. Learners will be taught about the work of graphic designers and understand the different areas of employment that exist they will be learning about the different sector within the graphic design industry.

