

fine art

A - Level AQA

This highly successful course will enable you to gain the skills and techniques necessary to create a rich and diverse portfolio of artworks. You will investigate and experiment with a wide range of media in order to express yourself through a number of techniques including drawing and paintings. From your personal research you will be encouraged to develop your own individual style that will lead to a final artwork that will become the main focus of your final exhibition. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to demonstrate initiative and curiosity, to be visual thinkers and creative problem solvers. The study of history and theory of art is essential in developing your understanding of how fine art works on several levels.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1 – Portfolio (60% of A Level)

The development of the portfolio involves completing a body of quality artworks culminating in one or more final pieces. Drawing and painting skills are core elements throughout the course. Students are expected to explore and analyse a wide variety of contemporary and historical artists to inform their work. They are expected to be independent with this and find artists that inspire them as well as looking at the ones they are directed to by the teacher. Artworks will be created using a range of media and new techniques and students should be experimental and imaginative with their developmental work. Students need to work from real life and will be expected to take photos to initiate and supplement their ideas.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level)

Towards the end of your course you will choose one assignment from a range of externally set assignments (starting points). Past starting points have included 'Water', 'Reflections', 'Time', 'Crowds', 'Animals' and 'Movement'. Over the next 3 months your time will be spent researching, planning and developing ideas. You will be expected to take photographs relating to the starting point, explore artists who link into the theme and develop a range of ideas demonstrating a variety of media and techniques. A further 15 hours of supervised time (under exam conditions) will be used to complete the final piece or pieces.

Who's it for?

You should give this course serious consideration if:

- you have a real interest and passion for art, preferably having studied it to a high level at GCSE already.
- you are self-motivated and prepared to carry out your own research and investigations, putting in time at home and in study periods.
- you can employ analytical thinking and be creative and innovative.
- you have an enterprising attitude and are willing to take risks.

Progression

The course provides an excellent progression route into higher education and careers in Art and Design related professions such as Illustrator, Art Therapist, Theatre Designer, Interior Designer, Exhibition Curator, Arts Educator, Advertising and the design industry.

Accepted widely by universities as an academic subject, the UCAS points gained from studying the subject will enable you to progress to the course of your choice.

