



Art & Design



Art & Design is an extremely successful & popular choice for students to take at GCSE level and is the most established, direct and reliable route to higher study in all Art and Design disciplines both at A-level, on vocational courses and at degree level.

As a department we consistently achieve excellent results and student satisfaction is very high. We follow the AQA 'Art, craft & design 8201' specification which covers all areas of art, craft & design and offers students the platform to explore their creativity in the best possible way.

The majority of studio practice follows teacher modelling, demonstration and student development. Experimentation is supported by a confident, risk-taking approach from students and sound teacher expertise, as well as individual support. We always look at equipping students with skills and knowledge that will enable them to work with greater independence and make excellent progress over time.

Throughout the two year course students will produce both preparatory and experimental work and refined final outcomes. These will be presented as a coursework portfolio which is worth 60% of the final grade. At the end of the course, students will undertake an externally set assignment; again this will include both preparatory work and a final outcome and is worth 40% of the final grade. There will be half a term's preparation time for this and a 10 hour controlled test.

Students will need to spend a minimum of 2 hours per week outside of lesson time if they wish to access the top grades available and will be supported by their teacher in doing this.

Preparatory (sketchbook) work involves: Observational and analytical drawings and photographs, studies of the work of historical and contemporary artists and designers (including written annotation and written links to artists' work), experimental work to explore materials, processes and techniques.

Final outcomes include; personal responses to given starting points in a wide range of media including; drawing in pencil, charcoal, pen, graphite; painting in watercolour, ink and acrylic; printmaking relief and intaglio; collage or mosaic; photography/digital manipulated imagery; 3D work, construction and/or modelling.

The AQA GCSE course has four Assessment Objectives which are shared with the students. These value and reward the main strands of all study in Art and Design:

- Investigating artists and contexts
- Experimenting and refining
- Recording through drawing and photography
- Creating a personal response.

The Art studios are available most lunchtimes for students to develop and refine their work; after school sessions are also available by arrangement.