

A Level Art, Craft & Design



Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements: grade 5 or above in GCSE Art & Design, plus relevant portfolio.

We would expect you to have achieved a 5 grade or above at GCSE level; and to have a portfolio of work which reflects a genuine desire to explore ideas and experiment with a variety of media, techniques and artists' ideas. Above all we would want you to be able to work independently, to be willing to contribute to team activities and have a genuine interest in the subject beyond the classroom. The ability to complete regular homework, to a consistently high standard, will be a key factor. Ideally this is an area you are passionate about and will go beyond the minimum in order to really develop as a young artist.

Why study Art & Design?

A Level Art, Craft & Design will allow students the chance to extend their understanding of a variety of artistic techniques, styles and approaches, encouraging them to develop a more independent and thoughtful exploration of the visual world. Opportunities will exist for working beyond the classroom in galleries, museums and other venues, and we encourage a strong emphasis on observation drawing skills, photography and portfolio development. The course will enable an in-depth enquiry into topics and concepts through drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, textile, sculpture, photography and other relevant processes.

What does the course involve?

The main purpose of any course in Art, Craft & Design is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world, to respond in a personal and creative way and to contribute to the course for the benefit of everyone. The skills you will develop will be varied, amongst which will gain a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology used within Art & Design. We will encourage you to develop the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using a variety of media, techniques and processes. The course encourages students to expand their imaginative and creative powers, alongside experimental, analytical and critical thinking skills. There will be opportunities to build a specialist vocabulary and to gain a better understanding of how Art, Craft & Design has shaped and contributed to world history and contemporary society.

The AS course begins with an open-ended theme, which might explore pattern, decorative design and surface texture. The initial project will allow students to explore the formal elements – line, tone, colour, texture, shape, form and pattern - from which they will be encouraged to develop their own themes leading to a final outcome. The A2 course theme evolves from work carried out during the AS course, but is very much chosen by the student, reflecting their interest in a specific style, designer, culture, artist or art movement. The exam themes for both the AS and the A2 courses are set by the exam board (Edexcel) and require independent and personal creative exploration.

AS Level	Exam
Coursework Students will be required to explore the expressive nature of Art and Design. 50%	Exam – Externally set exam theme with at least 12 weeks of research and a 10 hour final exam piece. 50%

A2 Level	Exam
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Coursework – a set of practical work on a personal topic and a written critical study of approx. 3,000 words. 60%

Exam – Externally set exam theme with at least 12 weeks of research and a 15 hour final exam piece. 40%

Where will Art & Design lead me post Sixth Form?

There are many careers in Art and Design. Most of these require further study at an art school, further education college or university. At present most students wishing to take Art, Craft or Design further will complete a one year 'Foundation' course at an Art college or college of further education, before applying for degree courses in more specialist areas of Art and Design. Career paths might include interior design, set design for stage or film, fashion, advertising, textile design, shop display, architecture, teaching, exhibition design, animation, computer graphics, photography, youth work, art therapy and many others.

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