



A LEVEL ART

Students are encouraged to approach their work with an emphasis on visual enquiry rather than merely 'rendering skills'. An approach based upon research, investigation and discovery underpins all work. It is strongly advised that all students taking Art at A Level put in a lot of extra hours in their study periods and after school workshops. As a practical subject the making of work does take time and persistence, especially to achieve higher marks. Students are encouraged to develop their intellectual understanding of art through discrete lessons on contextual studies looking at art from different times, places and cultures - historical and contemporary. The course is split into two components: A "Personal Investigation" and an "Externally Set Assignment".

We only offer a two year A Level in Fine Art. The examination board is: AQA.

A LEVEL:

Component 1: Personal investigation

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. The investigation should be a coherent, in-depth study that demonstrates the student's ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. Students must also complete a written element of between 1000-3000 words.

To initiate this project we work on a number of supporting modules with a concentration on skills with a particular emphasis on working from observation in more advanced ways. We encourage the investigation of forms in space and how space can be explored without resorting to stylisation or preconceived rendering techniques. Students are encouraged to question their use of materials in expressive and meaningful ways. Work is presented on A1 sheets and in sketchbooks. Annotation should be analytical and used an advanced Art vocabulary.

Each student must include in their portfolio:

A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study.

Students can present their written material as a single passage of continuous prose or as a series of shorter discrete, but linked, passages of continuous prose incorporated within the practical work.

This assignment forms 60% of the final grade.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

The question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select **one**. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date.

Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and maquettes. Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. The first 3 hours of the supervised time must be consecutive. In the 15 hours students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.

This assignment forms 40% of the final grade.

