

Art – Fine Art/Visual Arts

What will I study and learn?

The course is designed to provide you with an exciting and varied experience across a range of Fine Art disciplines. Key skills and techniques will be taught and developed over the two years, and projects will be informed through an exploration of different artists and designers. There is a strong emphasis on developing an individual and independent approach in each student, which will allow you to fully explore art ideas and develop your own techniques and methodologies as the course develops.

Within the Fine Art specification, there are opportunities to work across a wide range of media with drawing at the core, leading onto painting in a variety of mediums such as acrylic, ink and oil. You will also get to investigate ideas through screen print, etching, photography and digital processes.

Beyond the classroom

During the course there will be opportunities for you to visit museums and galleries, and to experience visits from practicing artists. Residential trips allow you to explore art concepts and histories that are relevant to the coursework, and will enable you to broaden your artistic horizons. We currently run a day trip to St Ives, Cornwall in the Autumn term which both Lower and Upper Sixth attend.

Future opportunities

Art students have gained admission to degree courses ranging from Architecture and History of Art, to Games Design at a range of destinations such as Central Saint Martins, UWE and Goldsmiths, as well as foundation degree courses.



“Due to the smaller class sizes I regularly receive one-to-one support from my teachers. This extra support has allowed me to expand my creative abilities and has increased my confidence to reach for the top grades in Art.

Tilly, OB

Courses: Psychology, Art and Biology



Want to know more?

Mrs Jane Troup

Head of Art

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Exam Board:

aqa.org.uk

How will I be assessed?

Lower Sixth

The initial projects will develop a range of technical skills and explore the work of artists with the aim of building a broad understanding of different media and processes. Future tasks are designed to develop an individuality to your research and art making. The emphasis of the work is to learn new skills and establish a creative problem-solving approach to your investigations. Throughout L6 you will regularly present your work in group critiques and will receive detailed written feedback after each induction unit. In the final term of L6 you will commence your Personal Investigation.

Upper Sixth

Component 1 Personal investigation

60%

This will be started in the last term of the Lower Sixth and will run until January. You will be encouraged to create a body of work that explores a personal idea, concept or theme from initial research through to realisation in any chosen medium(s). This will be supported by work journals that explore and document your ideas, influences and progress. You will also be required to write a 2,000 to 3,000-word essay Personal Study exploring an aspect of art that has influenced your own practice.

Component 2 Externally-set assignment

40%

This unit is similar to the GCSE examination as it begins with a preparatory period running from February through to April and will culminate in a fifteen-hour examination at the start of May. The weeks prior to the examination will be used to research and explore the chosen question. You will also build up a body of work, which will be supported by a work journal.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 7 in the GCSE examination for Art would provide a suitable basis but it is not essential you have taken Art before. A good grade in related subjects, evidence of your skills and high levels of motivation could also secure you a place on this course. As a part of your assessment you will be asked to provide a small portfolio of work that will be discussed at interview.