

A-LEVEL ART & DESIGN



INFORMATION
for students and parents

2026 ENTRY

ART & DESIGN

The aim of A-level Art & Design is to develop your intellectual, imaginative and creative abilities. The course will enable you to work within a broad context of Art & Design, covering a range of disciplines including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, mixed media and both digital and traditional film and darkroom photography.

You will be fully supported and encouraged to develop as a creative individual where your own interests can, and should, shape the work you do.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We would normally expect you to have gained a grade 6 or above in GCSE Art & Design. However, if you have a lower grade, or are interested in the subject and have not taken GCSE, then please come and talk to us. Interest in the subject is the most important qualification!

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Current and past students have combined A-level Art & Design with Humanities, Science, Maths, and Modern Foreign Languages. You will enjoy developing your creative thinking and practical skills alongside your other subjects. The problem-solving and contextual skills in Art are, in fact, highly complementary alongside other academic disciplines.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Art & Design is a fully recognised A-level course for university entry. It is one of the fastest growing areas of study nationally, with skills such as visual literacy and creative thinking being greatly valued by both universities and employers.

Many career opportunities are widened by a qualification in Art & Design (e.g. Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering, Industrial Design, Product Design, Fashion, Creative Direction, Marketing, Media and Computer Science) as well as the obvious routes into Art & Design degrees.

This practical, creative, problem-solving course will equip you with the skills and confidence to be successful in a very wide area of careers.

Recent destinations and courses for girls that have studied Art & Design A-level are varied. They include Architecture, Product Design, Theoretical Physics, Land Management, Design Engineering, Medicine, History and English, as well as going onto Art Colleges to study Fashion, Illustration, Fine Art and many more.

COURSE CONTENT

Exam Board: OCR

Unit 1: Personal Investigation - 60%

This component comprises two discrete but linked elements.

Element 1: Practical portfolio

This is a practical portfolio of your work. You will develop your skills and own interests during the course and will work on projects where you choose and develop your own theme. You may work in any media and final pieces can be paintings, drawings, mixed media, sculptures, installations, photography and other outcomes. The practical work accounts for 80% of the Personal Investigation marks.

Element 2: Related Study

This is a written and illustrated study (guide 3000 words). It will closely relate to the theme of your practical portfolio work. The written study accounts for 20% of the Personal Investigation marks.

Unit 2: Externally Set Task - 40%

The question paper is released early allowing you ample time to plan and prepare for a fifteen-hour period of controlled time in which to realise your ideas into a final outcome. You choose one theme to develop from the many choices on the set-task paper.

The course content will include:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography both digital and darkroom
- Life-drawing
- Critical and Contextual studies
- Sketchbook development
- Mixed media work
- Sculpture and 3D work
- Visiting exhibitions
- Creative and experimental use of media
- Organising and presenting work
- Analysis and evaluation

We have a dedicated Sixth Form Art Studio where you are taught and which can be used outside of lesson times. You will be able to leave work out and return to it. Each student has their own storage space.



MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

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